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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1855.

REVIEWS

Te Ika a Maui; or, New Zealand and its Inhabitants; illustrating the Origin, Manners, Customs, Mythology, Religion, Rites, Songs, Proverbs, Fables, and Language of the Natives. Together with the Geology, Natural History, Productions, and Climate of the Country; its State as regards Christianity; Sketches of the Principal Chiefs, and their Present Position. With a Map and numerous Illustrations. By the Rev. Richard Taylor, M.A. Wertheim & Macintosh.

New Zealand has already contributed many volumes to our literature; but it has, probably, never furnished one so complete as 'Te Ika a Maui,' by Mr. Taylor. This gentleman has spent nearly a quarter of a century in that far distant settlement, where, for many years, he fulfilled the useful office of a missionary. While performing that duty, he appears to have accomplished many other duties by way of relaxation,—the proofs and results of which may be found in this effective volume. He has industry, taste, and judgment. A well-trained mind has helped him to unravel intricate records of history and mythology; his acuteness of observation has detected a multitude of interesting matters which his predecessors had passed over; and a disciplined memory and habits of order are visible in the number of facts set down and in the neatness with which they are arranged. His book, for many a long year, will be one of permanent interest,—useful, whether for consultation or amusement, to all interested in the early history and progress of New Zealand.

Mr. Taylor rejects the claim of the French for Paulnier, and of Juan Fernandez, some three-quarters of a century later, for priority of discovery. He thinks the first navigator may have reached the Philippines, and the second Tahiti. He assigns the merit of discovery to Tasman in 1643. Tasman, however, had no idea that his New Zealand was anything but part of a continent. It was Cook, in the last century, who surveyed the coasts of both islands, and "with such accuracy, that substantially the charts still used are his." Nearly half-a-century had elapsed since Cook's first visit, when, "on the 19th of December, 1814, Mr. Marsden, the senior chaplain of New South Wales, first landed at the Cavalllos; and, on the Christmas-day following, the Gospel was preached for the first time at Rangihu, in the Bay of Islands, from the appropriate text, 'Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy.'

The philologist will find much that is interesting in these pages on the subject of language. There are, certainly, evident traces of the connexion which once existed between the language of the natives and one universal tongue. Researches into this matter have often occupied enthusiastic scholars. Charles O'Connor, for instance, in his 'Chronicles of Eri,' attempted to prove a connexion between Irish and Hebrew, by showing that the Hebrew names for Adam and Eve meant, in Irish, a male and female fish. The same writer went even further, for he tried to establish, in one instance at least, in his 'History of Ireland,' that English was only a corrupt Irish. Thus, he derived our term lamb's-wool from la mas ubhal (pronounced la-mas-ool), the mass celebrated on the 1st of November in honour of the angel who presided over fruits and seeds. The English, according to him, gave the name to their compositions of roasted apples, sugar, spice, and ale, which they drank on that day. Nor, perhaps, is O'Connor

very far from the truth. Signs and languages have yet to find their explorer and historian. Beauford, in his 'Druidism Revived,' probably was in one of the right paths when he said that the brands and marks used in some remote country places for parishes and hundreds were old Pagan characters, the power and signification of which have long been forgotten. Mr. Taylor has treated the question as it regards the New Zealand language very fully and ably.

Our author enters largely into the ancient mythology of New Zealand. On this subject we said enough when reviewing the volume by Governor Grey, especially devoted to a consideration of this question. Some of its details would seem to argue a very degraded and helpless race. Mr. Taylor, however, not only asserts, but proves, that the degraded state of the New Zealander was never his natural condition, but the effect of circumstances, from which he is fast recovering by timely aid. The general practical knowledge of the untaught New Zealander is often of value when philosophers are helpless.—

"Such general knowledge makes the native at home wherever he may be. I have often had opportunities of admiring this; when encamped with my little party in pouring rain, I have been surprised at the short time it took to erect a comfortable shed impervious to the rain, to produce fire by friction, to find fuel and ignite it, to seek out food, and sit down comfortably to enjoy it; and this before an European would have made up his mind what to do. An instance of this kind occurred some years ago, when the late Allan Cunningham, the well-known botanist of Australia and New Zealand, was accompanied by one of our missionaries on a journey through a New Zealand forest: whilst busily employed in examining its varied productions, they allowed their natives to push on to a spot where they usually encamped, and carried away by their love of nature, they did not perceive the lapse of time, until they were suddenly overtaken by the shades of night. To make their uncomfortable position worse, it set in rainy. To overtake their companions was impossible, for such is the gloom of New Zealand forests, and the overgrown, ill-defined tracks through them, that it is quite impossible to find the way along them in the dark; but, instead of trying to erect a shed, or light a fire in the native style, what did they do? Just what most Europeans would in similar circumstances—they did nothing at all; they felt themselves perfectly helpless—they stood under a tree the whole of the night, without fire, without food, and without shelter. The effects of that night proved fatal to poor Cunningham; he caught a violent cold, which settled on his lungs, and in a few months brought him to his grave."

The stories of the old gods of New Zealand have puzzled many learned readers; but there is little doubt that the history of the ancient deities is the exaggerated record of the wars, murders, and lusts of the chiefs. What the Abbé Banier did for classical mythology might easily be effected for that of New Zealand. If Jupiter was, as the Abbé states, simply a roystering gentleman with a strong castle and will to match, on the summit of Olympus, so was the Father of Antipodean gods and men a man of much power, with unlimited opportunity for its exercise. Tawaki was such a man; and originally folks had not the slightest idea that he was a god, "until one day he ascended a lofty hill, and some one who was cutting brushwood saw him throw aside his vile garments, and clothe himself with the lightning. They then knew he was a god"; and nothing could be more satisfactory, if the brushwood-cutter was a man who did not use his own hatchet according to the popular application. How eager some of the New Zealand Chiefs were to be deified, and others to deify them, is thus narrated:—

"Heroes were thought to become stars, of greater or less brightness, according to the number of their

victims slain in fight; they scooped out their eyes and swallowed them, in order to obtain the spirit and power of the enemy slain. The spirit of a chief, thus consuming those of the chiefs slain, was raised above men; he became a god even upon earth, and after death a bright luminary of heaven."

We must not be too ready to laugh at this, for many a man obtains a semi-deification among civilized nations by "scooping out the eyes" of his dupes.

The chapter on Tapu, or Taboo, is perhaps the most interesting in the volume. Tapu is described as "a religious observance established for a political purpose." It might have been added, for a very selfish purpose also. Mungo Park tells us of certain African priests who being fond of eggs, and finding them scarce, declared that it was the most impious wickedness for a layman to eat them. The church accordingly got all the eggs. So here, "if a chief took a fancy for anything belonging to another who was inferior, he made it tapu for himself, by calling it his backbone. . . . A chief anxious to obtain a fine large canoe belonging to an inferior who had offended him, merely called it by his own name, and then his people went and took it." The chiefs too could tapu high roads so that no one could travel by them till "his Grace" chose to take away the restriction. Altogether, the chiefs exhibited, in exercising this right, as much arrogance as any sovereign prince or ducal landlord of modern times. The right could, nevertheless, be sometimes put in force with a merry sort of justice.—

"Some years ago, a German missionary located himself at Motu Karamu, a pa up the Mokan; the greater part of the natives there, with their head chief, Te Kuri, were members of the Church of Rome; but his head wife, however, became his warm patron. When the priest arrived there on his way down the river, he scolded Te Kuri for suffering an heretical missionary to become located in his district, and applied many opprobrious epithets to the intruder. This very much incensed the chief's lady; she said her teacher should not be abused, and therefore next morning, when his reverence was preparing to continue his journey, she made the river tapu, and to his annoyance there was not a canoe to be found which dare break it; after storming for some time he was obliged to return by the way he came, the lady saying it would teach him to use better language another time, and not insult her minister."

What use the Redemptorists, on the one hand, and platform-ultras, on the other, would make of this power, if they could only exercise it in England! The New Zealanders, it may be added, are a logical people. The priests boasted that they could bewitch the missionaries; but as the individuals employed, as means to such an end, perished by war or accident, the people deemed the Gospel curses and promises to be stronger than their own, and became converted accordingly. The natives, however, still profess the art of bewitching.—

"I once heard a story of an Irish sailor, who fancied he had been bewitched by a native. Poor Paddy became alarmed, and anxiously demanded what he should do to get free from the curse; he was recommended to go to the tohunga, who had bewitched him, with a handsome present in his hands; the advice was adopted, Paddy was graciously received, and gravely ordered to open his mouth, when the other immediately spit down his throat, and then told him he might rest satisfied, no evil would befall him, for he had made him noa, or removed the spell. One of our countrymen living at Mokau, a swearing, blaspheming fellow, was thought to possess this power, from some individual who had been cursed and sworn at by him, suddenly dying; the natives afterwards had the greatest fear of him, and even Poutama, the head chief, who was in general an overbearing man, was quite afraid of this fellow; he had sold some pigs to him, but he did not even dare

to ask him for the payment, and he, being a rogue, never gave any."

Let us say for old priests and surviving relatives that they were, and are, the least presumptuous people possible in their judgments. They did not "scatter damnation through the land." In the hands of the dead they place a seed taro for the sustenance of the body.—

"When asked why they placed the taro in the hands, if they thought the soul ascended to heaven, the reply was, they were not sure whether it ascended or descended; they knew the body descended, and they thought it probable the soul did the same; therefore, they put a seed taro in the grave, that, should such be the case, they might be right both ways."

—We have more decided but less moderate people nearer home.

New Zealand is rich in proverbs—those echoes of experience. Some philosopher has said, that the education of men should commence with proverbs and end with thoughts. In this way, the New Zealanders may be said to have been "edified." The good sense of a nation is said to lie in these popular sayings. Here are a few samples from a full bushel:—

"The spider is not seen when hid in his web; so the real intention of the man is concealed in the recess of his heart."

"The slightest movement of the reed waving in the wind is perceived by man's eye, but not that of the heart."

"You will be stifled with smoke; no (said ironically), it is a cooking shed, which makes all the difference."

"Don't divide the cray fish, give it whole (a little thing). Similar to our saying, Don't make two bites at a cherry."

"Potaka was a lazy fellow, who laid in bed when others worked, and got up to work when they were coming away.—A saying for a lazy man."

"The good thought springs up as grass, but it is immediately cut down."

"It was pinched within the end of the finger-nail.—A saying for a man who has had a very narrow escape."

"A man who is of no consequence at home, is one of importance abroad.—Literally, A mussel at home—a parrot abroad."

"Give as well as take, and all will be well (right)."

"Where were you when the Fuchsia came into leaf, that you did not plant food?—A query put to those who are too lazy to cultivate the ground. This is nearly the only deciduous tree of New Zealand."

"If it was a sun just appearing, well; but it is a sun which is setting."

"Though long hidden, it will be small when it appears."

"The hand is shallow, but the throat is deep.—A saying for a person who eats a great deal, but is too lazy to work."

"Go to Patiarero"—[is evidently our "Go to Jericho"].

"We can thoroughly search every corner of a house; but the corner of a heart we cannot."

"It is too dark to see how to thread worms.—This is said when it is time to leave off work, and refers to the custom of threading worms, as a bait for eels."

"You keep at a distance in summer, but stick close in harvest.—This is used for a lazy fellow, who runs away during the working season, and does not return till the crops are dug up."

"It is not good to lean upon a man, for he is a moving bolster."

The people are as fond of songs as of proverbs—perhaps more so; for to quote a song in a speech or in conversation is to prove that the quoter is a man of education. The more popular the song the more welcome the citation, even in the highest circles;—by comparison, as if at a *soirée* in Belgravia the conversation were to be pointed by allusions to "lily-white sand" and the catastrophe of the silver-tongued daughter of the rat-catcher. While on the subject of social company, we will add a trait connected with dress. With us a bald head is considered

picturesque, unless it be powdered. The New Zealand D'Orsay's were of another opinion altogether.—

"Wigs were not worn, although a bald head (*he pakira*) was considered a reproach. I once recollect seeing the head chief of Taupo with an English wig, made of a light brown coloured hair; this he wore over his own raven locks, which descended on every side full half a foot below the artificial covering, and gave him a most extraordinary appearance, which was heightened by his total unconsciousness of the ludicrous figure he was making."

But, with regard to social traits, we know nothing that can compete with the pleasant custom of preserving the heads of the dead in order to bring them out when friends were present. Fancy a gentleman, at the head of his table, sending his butler to his library to bring in the head of his defunct sire, to introduce all that was left of his father to some new friend! How pleasant it must be to hear a host request his *vis à vis* to pass round the wine and his uncle's skull! "It was an uncommon thing," says Mr. Taylor, "to embalm in this way the head of a beloved wife or child." Europeans acquired a taste to possess these heads, and then there was a curious result in the market.—

"They were done for sale to the Europeans, and so great was the demand, that many a murderous attack has been made solely to obtain heads for the market; and those who were the most finely tattooed, were chiefly sought for. How many of the sins of these savage islanders have been participated in by their European visitors! Few are aware to what extent this abominable traffic has been carried, but it has now totally ceased. I have, however, been assured, that not a few of the heads thus preserved were those of Europeans, and some of them of the very individuals who came to purchase such things for the European market. If the person to whom the head had belonged was a relative or friend, the operators had to remove to some distance from the pa, and neither they nor the relations were allowed to touch any food until it was cured, for if the process were witnessed by the friends of the dead, they would be unable to repress their tears, and the head would be spoiled; but if it were only the head of an enemy, the operation was performed before all the people."

Two more social traits, and we have done with this part of the subject. Here is a method of silencing noisy children which we recommend to the notice of all Christian sufferers:—

"In general they show great affection for their offspring; indeed the children are suffered to do as they like. They sit in all their councils, they are never checked; once, and once only, I saw a man, whose child (an infant, one or two years old) was very troublesome, crying incessantly in the church, take him up and run out with him to a river close by, in which he kept ducking him until he ceased crying. The children seem to be more precocious than those of Europeans, and however unruly in younger days, when about sixteen they become quite men, and frequently as grave and staid, except in war time; then these youths are the worst, and commit the greatest excesses."

The next refers to young Ladies who go out to "delightful evenings." The fashion alluded to is not very likely to be followed among us, however, this Christmas.—

"The chief amusement of the females was, and still is the *tangi*, or crying. The ladies priding themselves on their doing this in the most affecting way, so that a stranger would be deceived, and not think it possible that it could be a mere mockery of woe, and yet it is nothing more; tears are shed in abundance, and the hands are wrung, as if suffering the most poignant grief, whilst the most heart-rending cries excite the sympathy of the company. The ladies have their heads adorned with fillets of leaves, or of dog's hair, and so much joy do they experience in this exciting amusement, that they look forward to a good crying with the same desire a young lady in England does to a dance or ball."

The chapters on emigration and Colonial

mismangement will well repay perusal. They are written with good sense and good temper. We sneer at heathen Greeks; but the Greek system of colonial emigration and law was the perfection of political wisdom. England acts as absurdly as ever Spain did in this matter. The instances here given are numerous and lamentable. "Her Majesty," we are told, "purchased the princely estate of Balmoral, with its Castle, and about 300 acres of improved land, and a district of more than 20,000 acres for actually less than half the sum per acre that the poor sea-worn emigrant must give for scrub land in Canterbury, in the midst of the wilds of New Zealand." Scrub land, however, soon becomes rich, as are certain of the worms that are in it, and which once formed a very favourite food. The worm which feeds on roots is so delicious, that its sweetness remained in the mouth two days after it was eaten. We conclude by adding a word of commendation for the excellent coloured illustrations of Natural History which are appended to Mr. Taylor's able, useful, and entertaining volume.

Αριστοτελος τα Πολιτικα. The Politics of Aristotle, with English Notes. By R. Congreve, M.A. Parker & Son.

Αριστοτελος Πολιτικα. The Politics of Aristotle, from the Text of Immanuel Bekker, With English Notes. By J.R. T. Eaton, M.A. Longman & Co.

The late Dr. Arnold—who was anything but a narrow-minded stickler for customs and institutions simply because of their antiquity—considered the attention paid to Thucydides and Aristotle one of the prime excellencies of the Oxford system. Nor will any one who is sufficiently acquainted with these writers be inclined to dispute the correctness of his opinion. The History of Thucydides is allowed on all hands to be, what he intended it, an everlasting possession; and the works of Aristotle contain matter no less worthy of study in all time. There is a great advantage in studying the two together—particularly the Politics of Aristotle with Thucydides,—as they throw light upon each other. Thucydides supplies facts which illustrate the theory of Aristotle, and Aristotle lays down principles which explain the phenomena described by Thucydides. This combination of science and fact is the best preparation for actual life. All who would be qualified to form an enlightened opinion on the various political and social questions of the day ought to go through such a course of training.

Mr. Congreve remarks on the superiority in practical value of Aristotle's 'Political Philosophy' over that of Plato. The Republic of the latter is a splendid dream. In the language of Mr. Grote, Plato "looked to nothing short of a new genesis of the man and the citizen, with institutions calculated from the beginning to work out the full measure of perfectibility." Aristotle, on the other hand, builds his political system on the facts of history and his own observation. Hence, being founded on data derived principally from Greek experience, it is often not directly applicable to subsequent forms of society.—

"In our own day, however, [says Mr. Congreve] after the lapse of more than twenty centuries, such is the state of society, that the political philosopher may turn his attention to the *Politics* of Aristotle, if not for a direct solution of some of the problems which arise, yet for much indirect guidance. Over and above their interest, that is, from the historical point of view—an interest which never has been lost, as we may see from the great works of historians and political philosophers in all times—they may now once again have a direct political interest. For if,

as M. Auguste Comte thinks, the great kingdoms of modern Europe are destined ultimately, and that at no very distant period, to break up into smaller wholes, more analogous in size and requirements to the states of Greek experience, in such case the work that embodies that experience will present a new attraction, and will be resorted to for the light it sheds on the true principles of the strictly political organization. And even leaving out of view this contingency, it is justly remarked by the same philosopher, that in the present prevalence of theories subversive of property and the family, and through them subversive of the whole social organization, men may refresh their convictions in favour of these institutions, and gain strength against their opponents, from the careful study of Aristotle's remarks on the dangerous reveries of Plato, the philosophical originator of most of the social errors of our day."

The simultaneous appearance of two editions of this work, prepared by Oxford tutors, indicates an unabated interest at that University in her favourite author;—indeed, Mr. Eaton expressly ascribes his production to a direct application occasioned by an increased demand. Both editions have for their basis the text of Bekker, which is not only now the best, but, in the judgment of Niebuhr, must ever remain so, even after further collation of manuscripts; and both are executed in a scholarly, efficient manner, and furnished with useful indexes. That of Mr. Congreve is more simple in its aim and more directly practical in its character. His grand object is to assist the student in understanding Aristotle's treatise, not to discuss collateral points. Besides bestowing great pains upon the exposition of difficult passages, he is careful to point out the course of thought, and he gives an excellent outline of the scope of each book. Variations of reading are rarely noticed, except when they materially affect the sense. We meet with little philological or grammatical discussion, and that little is subservient to interpretation, which is the prominent feature of the work. It is the subject-matter, not the mere language in which it is expressed, that mainly occupies the Editor's attention. In this respect his work somewhat resembles Arnold's 'Thucydides.' Mr. Eaton is less copious in annotation, though his purpose is more comprehensive. He passes over many difficulties which Mr. Congreve grapples with—in general successfully, and always manfully. To represent the actual state of knowledge on matters connected with the text, rather than simply to explain the text itself, is the object which he has in view. His notes consist more of extracts and references than observations of his own. They are not so much calculated to satisfy the student's desire for information, as to suggest and direct inquiry.

A short Appendix—consisting of five Essays on Slavery, Aristotle and Plato, Monarchy, War, and Education—is subjoined by Mr. Congreve, who there avows sentiments scarcely to be expected from an ex-tutor of Oxford,—sentiments, indeed, which would shock the nerves of some old-fashioned loyal folks. He talks of constitutional hereditary monarchy as an anomaly which cannot long survive, and desires a provisional dictatorship, something like that of Sulla and Cesar, or the present Government of France. On the subject of education he is equally a root-and-branch reformer, disapproving of Latin and Greek as the basis of a liberal education, and denying the utility of these languages as means of mental discipline independently of the subject-matter of the classics, which he wishes to be studied in the originals for the sake of what they contain, though he admits their substance may be obtained from translations in the case of historical and philosophical writers. These views are not likely to find much favour with those who direct the studies of young men, and may have a pre-

judicial influence upon the circulation of the work, on which account we cannot help regretting their introduction, because in other respects this is an edition well suited for students.

A Lady's Second Journey round the World: from London to the Cape of Good Hope, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Celebes, Ceram, the Moluccas, &c., California, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, and the United States. By Ida Pfeiffer. 2 vols. Longman & Co.

The fruits of Madame Ida Pfeiffer's second journey round the world,—some glimpses at which have been shown in the columns of this journal,—are now before us. Singular they may be fairly called, in more senses than one. A solitary woman's second journey round the world safely completed renders the pilgrim a curiosity almost as unique as would be a lady who having been twice on the scaffold for execution had been twice reprieved. In another point of view Madame Pfeiffer is singular. With her, the journey itself seems to be the object:—not what she can learn by the way. She seems especially delighted to be conveyed from place to place at the cost of sympathizing friends,—to be little satisfied in any country where life and locomotion are dear; but we can only say *seems*, because her descriptions are generally poor, and not always, we apprehend, correct. Perhaps her translator may be to blame for some inaccuracy. Having, however, read Madame Pfeiffer's meagre and inexact account of the opening of our Great Exhibition in 1851, at which she was present, we are justified in expressing doubts whether a lady so slovenly when narrating what happens among civilized persons and those understanding her language, is to be relied upon when she describes what Dyaks did to her and what cannibals said about her. The circumstances of her journey, in brief, remain its marking peculiarity: since neither the humour of the authoress, nor the amount of culture possessed by her, nor the descriptive power which she has at command, entitles her to any high place among what may be called the pioneer authors, whose experiences are of use to scientific geographers, or colonists, or home statesmen.

Such novelty as will be found in Madame Pfeiffer's book lies in her adventures in the Indian Archipelago. Of these we may give a specimen or two, —the following being her arrival at Sambas from Fort Sorg.—

"I remained for two days Mr. Van Houten's guest, and then left the fort for Sambas in a government boat, which the assistant resident Mr. Van Prehn was so kind as to send for me. The distance is thirty-six miles, but I reached it in the evening, and was conducted to the house of the *Pangerang-rato*, a dignitary who, like the *Panam-bakan*, holds an intermediate rank between a rajah and a sultan. Mr. Van Prehn had his own house crammed with officers, so that it was impossible for him to offer me a lodgings. The *Pangerang* received me in the divan, and here everything had such a European air, that I flattered myself I had got into good quarters. After about an hour's conversation I ventured to express a wish to go to my room, and I was then asked whether I would take anything to eat. I requested modestly that I might have a couple of boiled eggs, and then I went to my room, and waited till this banquet should make its appearance. I waited, however, a long time; but at last there came a man with a little bundle in one hand and a packet in the other, both of which he put down upon the table and unfolded. The bundle contained six eggs, the packet a pound of wax candles. This extremely simple mode of waiting upon me was the more droll as I had had several servants, as well as a female attendant, assigned me, who followed me at every step like my shadow; but no one of them offered to bring me either a plate, or a knife, or bread, or salt. I thought if I asked for them I should have to wait as long as

before, and for this I had not patience, for I longed exceedingly to go to bed; so I stretched out my hand, and took one of the eggs,—but, alas! it was cold and *unboiled!* After my long day's travelling, therefore, I had to seek my couch without tasting a morsel. My apartments consisted of a great hall, to which three steps led up; and a small part of it, separated by a partition, formed the bedroom, which had neither door nor window, and merely a little screen before the entrance. In the morning I could not, of course, remain in the dark hole, and went into the hall; but this had half a dozen doors and was accessible to all comers. In a tropical country there is never any want of idle people, least of all in a princely residence; and since I besides offered rather a remarkable spectacle—for no one of the people there had ever seen a European woman—my great hall was constantly thronged; and every movement I made was watched by countless curious eyes, so that I really sometimes felt like an actress. The next morning I felt, as may be supposed, no deficiency of appetite for breakfast, in fact I was ravenous; when, behold, it made its appearance, and it was nothing but literally tea, without milk or bread! I really began now to be in an ill humour, and somewhat angry with those who had sent me to a house where I was treated thus, and yet would have to submit to everything, as I could speak to no one; but at length there arrived two gentlemen, Capt. Van der Kapelle, and Dr. Enthoffen, to invite me in the name of all the officers to take possession of one of their cottages, and I need not say how gladly I accepted the invitation; and they took leave, promising to come for me in the evening. In the meanwhile dinner-time came—a time of profound interest to me just now, for my fast had lasted for four-and-twenty hours; but as there were still no signs of preparing any meal, I took courage, and managed to signify that I desired to eat. Then the dinner was brought; rice boiled in water, half a wing of a fowl in such a fierce curry sauce that it burnt my mouth like a live coal, and two thin slices of meat, roasted to a cinder, swimming in very rancid coco-nut oil. Even with my appetite I could eat but little of this."

It is, possibly, inevitable to a record like Madame Pfeiffer's, that "the commissariat" should figure largely. During this journey, she states, she had to endure an amount of dirt and discomfort greater than on any previous occasion; and she enters into details which are more curious than edifying.—In the following paragraph we encounter a *clothes* trick, which we leave to the Boscos and Houdins and Andersons of modern magic to explain. When Madame Pfeiffer was at Tangerang, she was treated to a dance, a cockfight, and the exhibition of a Hercules.—

"The close of the entertainment, the performance of the Hercules, was really curious in its way. He appeared with nothing on but a pair of drawers; and a cord was passed round his neck, and with this his hands and arms were so firmly tied behind him, that he could not make the smallest movement. He came to us to have the knots examined, and then he crept under a high covered basket, beneath which various garments were placed; and after the lapse of a few minutes the basket was lifted up and the Hercules made his appearance completely clothed in them; then he crept again under the basket and came out without them, but holding the cord with all its knots fast in his hand, and so forth. All this would of course have been nothing in a theatre, where assistance might have been given him; but this was in a meadow, where no assistance was possible. One of the gentlemen present offered him twenty-five rupees for his mystery, but he declined the offer."

It will be recollected by those who read the *Athenæum* that Madame Pfeiffer forced her way as far into the recesses of the country of the Battakers, a race of cannibals, as those hungry and suspicious ogres would permit. Had she been a man, or even youthful in her own sex, she would not have penetrated as far as she did,—or only have gone to be carbonadoed and devoured. As it was, she confronted this appalling peril under the protection of a native prince.—

"The next day also I was obliged to pass in Donan, for the Rajah, who was nominally under the protection of the Dutch government, assured me that without his escort I could not venture into the country of the wild Battakers, now only a few miles off. He would go with me, he said, and use his personal influence with the Rajah, with whom he was acquainted, to secure my safety. In pursuance of this friendly resolution, he first slaughtered a buffalo-calf in my honour, to secure the patronage and favour of the evil spirits,—who, if they were offended, might oppose insurmountable obstacles to our undertaking, to induce them to refrain from increasing the perils of our journey. Early in the morning he paid me a visit, attended by some dozens of women and girls, mostly his relatives. They defiled before me in a profoundly humble attitude, bending down, and shading their faces with their hands,—the mode of salutation, I was told, for inferiors towards persons of rank. Then they sat down on the ground at the back of the hut, and took out of some pretty plaited baskets a quantity of siri that was intended for my delectation. The girls wore from ten to fifteen leaden rings in their ears, and had also the upper part of the cartilage pierced and decorated with a button, or a string of glass beads; but when they marry I was told they have to lay aside all these trinkets. The girls have their bosoms covered, the married women mostly bare, and both women and girls twist their hair up into a knot, putting a straw cushion under it to increase its apparent mass. What is rather perplexing, too, the gentlemen wear it just as long, and twist it up in the same manner as the ladies; they have no beards, and they wear the sarang, their only garment, fastened round them mostly in the same manner. Fortunately they, for the most part, stick on a straw cap, or twist a handkerchief round their heads, and by this sign one may recognise the superior sex. Many of the girls were of considerable *éboupointé*, and were only young ladies by courtesy, as they had, in fact, passed their youth, although, as it appeared, without entering the conjugal state; a circumstance to be accounted for from wives being purchasable articles here. The purpose of the Rajah's visit was to invite me to the solemn slaughtering of the buffalo-calf, and I soon accompanied him and his ladies to his hut. The ceremony began with a wild dance, performed by the Rajah's son, a youth of eighteen; and as every one desired to witness the *pas seul* of the young chief, the hut soon became so full that there was no moving. It was whispered about, probably to flatter the young man, that he was possessed by an evil spirit; and, as if he wished to justify the opinion, his dancing became even more and more fast and furious, until at last he fairly fell down exhausted. Then another took his place; but this was an inferior performer, who did not enjoy the advantage of demoniacal possession, and he soon retired, for the Rajah's son sprang up again, and recommenced his mad exhibition to the accompaniment, as before, of a kind of uproarious music. A bowl filled with unboiled rice was then presented to him, and he raised it several times above his head, as if he wished to offer the contents to the spirits, or beg their blessing upon it. Then he took a small portion and flung it into the air, and after that he rushed out of the hut scattering the rice as he went, and at last poured the remainder over the buffalo-calf, which lay on a sort of scaffold, bound, and ready to be slaughtered. After this the prince returned to the hut and continued his extraordinary *ballet d'action* until he could no longer stand, and fell exhausted into the arms of the much edified spectators. Thereupon the calf was slain, cut into many little bits, and for the most part distributed among the people; and the liver was politely put aside for me, and in the evening presented to me; but, unluckily, it had been roasted till it was as hard as a stone, and quite uneatable, so that I had again to content myself with rice and salt, although the calf had been killed expressly to do me honour."

We leave Madame Pfeiffer to tell for herself how she "got on" after such an auspicious setting-out,—since we shall take our leave of her, under rather safer circumstances, when, after her return from a pilgrimage so hazardous, she was feasted by the Queen of Lagus.—

"When I left the boat to walk a quarter of a mile to the royal abode, the whole population of the village accompanied me, for mine was the first European face that had ever been seen here. The whole body tried to enter with me into the palace (a bamboo hut of course), but they were, as might be expected, forcibly put back. The queen kept me waiting a long while before she made her appearance. She was an old, but lively and vigorous looking woman, and talked a great deal, and with much emphasis. She said she was seventy-six, but judging by the age of her youngest son she could not have been so much. The people here, when they are old, generally try to make themselves out older, in order to add to their dignity; but besides this, they have a very imperfect way of reckoning, and often do not themselves know how many years they should count. After having partaken of the customary refreshments of tea and sweetmeats, I wished to retire, for I was half-lame from sitting nine hours in that cramped posture: but the great lady would not allow this; she was too much entertained with the conversation of my interpreter, who told her all the news of the great town of Macassar. She was extremely cheerful and animated, although, as she herself told me, with truly stoical indifference, she had buried a son only three days before. That is the way with these people. As long as the body is in the house they scream and howl, and behave as if they were frantic with sorrow; but when it is once buried, the sorrow is buried with it, and they are quite comfortable and merry again. The queen wore mourning for her son, which consisted of a piece of dark cloth passed round her head, so as quite to conceal her hair, and hanging down upon her shoulders. Much against my will I was compelled to sup with Her Majesty, and the supper was no better than usual. There was a crowd of little dishes, the entire contents of which would by no means have overloaded the stomach of one person with a good appetite. One dish contained a single hard-boiled egg, cut into four parts, another three very tiny potatoes, a third the half of a fish three inches long, a fourth a few slices of cucumber, a fifth two very little onions, and so forth. In the midst of this splendid banquet was placed a very large closely covered soup tureen, and upon it a great ladle; on this giant dish I centred all my hopes and expectations, dreaming of boiled fowls, and Heaven knows what dainties, that I supposed it to contain. I took a good portion of rice upon my plate, thinking it would be good with the delicate meat and sauce of the fowl. Still the cover was not raised. I thought I should like a little salt to my rice, and asked for some; and then, at last, off went the cover, the great ladle was plunged in, and about a thimbleful of fine white salt presented to me. The grand dish was merely a monster salt-cellar. I felt ready to turn into a pillar of salt myself with grief and disappointed hope. Not less odd was the manner of serving water. Two handsome cut glass decanters, in cases, had been placed before us; and, as decanters are mostly accompanied by glasses, I waited some time in hopes of seeing them brought; but as none came, I asked for them, and was then requested by Her Majesty to drink out of the bottle. I did so accordingly, and not only I and she, but the two interpreters, and every one else. Among the fruits was one called *Durian*, in form and size resembling a middle-sized lemon, which smells so strongly of garlic, that you can perceive its presence forty yards off. The interior consists of very large white beans lying apart from each other. I had seen this fruit at Borneo, as well as in the Moluccas; and the Europeans declare that, if you can get accustomed to the smell, the taste is very fine, but that the best way to eat it is when sitting in a boat on a river, so that you can dip your hands every moment into the water. I must own, however, that though I made several attempts, I never could succeed in liking it,—the perfume was too powerful. The court lady, or attendant, who waited at table, wore on the thumb of the left hand a nail-case at least five inches long; and when I expressed my astonishment at this enormous nail, saying I had never seen anything like it even in China, the land of long nails, she smiled, and drew off the nail-case, and then I saw that it was merely an ornament, and that the nail it was intended to cover was at most of the length of half an inch. The case was the same

with others whom I saw wearing this curious decoration—with the exception of the Queen's son, who really boasted a nail two inches long. This fashion of wearing nail-cases, I never saw anywhere else than here. When the meal was over, I was obliged so far to disregard ceremony as to beg permission to retire. The Queen expressed much regret at not being able to receive me in her ruin of a palace, but requested I would follow her son to his, where I should find everything ready for my reception, and should also be presented to his wife, and entertained once more with tea and pastry. This honour, however, I was obliged to decline, and I stepped as quickly as possible under my clambu, and there enjoyed the rest so much needed. The Prince was still a young man, but his features and complexion betrayed the habitual opium smoker; and his first occupation in the morning was always to light his pipe. This poison, alas! is now continually brought to Celebes. After the breakfast, which was quite worthy of the preceding evening's supper, I went with the Prince to pay a visit to the Queen, and take my leave. As I entered, my attention was attracted by three boxes, which I had not noticed the preceding evening, and I soon found that two were to serve as seats for Her Majesty and myself, and the third to figure as the table. I had to wait half-an-hour for the Queen, who I was told was making her toilette, and such a toilette as it was when it was made! She had on a loose white blouse over her sarang, and her head was, as it had been the day before, wrapped in a handkerchief. By way of decoration, she wore two rows of hollow gold balls, of the form and size of eggs, which were crossed over her breast and shoulders; and at each side of the bosom hung a flat round piece of gold-plate, set with precious stones, that might have been taken for an order, if such a symbol of civilization could have been expected at Celebes. Her *chaussure*, however, struck me most; it consisted of shoes cut in the European shape, but not out of silk or stuff, but of gold-plate,—soles and all,—and adorned in the front with precious stones."

In transcribing the title of this book we have indicated the route taken by its writer. Early in the second volume, she touches ground better known than the districts into which we have looked. But her observations, beginning with California, are of no remarkable value or novelty. Her passion for seeing many things, and for forcing herself into peril more frightful than any woman has previously courted, seems to be its own reward; and, we repeat, it is her possession of this which gives her a place among travellers, and not any result derived or gain appropriated for the instruction of others. This is inevitable, we apprehend under the circumstances. The Lady whose life is spent in the terrific ascent of the tight-rope from the further end of Cremorne Gardens to the summit of the firework pagoda must have so much to do to keep herself steady that she must be excused if little beyond the professional necessities of self-preservation, of getting brilliantly up and safely down, are present to her.

The Theory and Practice of Horticulture; or, an Attempt to explain the Chief Operations of Gardening upon Physiological Grounds. By John Lindley. Longman & Co.

ALTHOUGH this is a second edition, such has been the advance of Vegetable Physiology that in order to apply its principles to Horticulture Dr. Lindley has been obliged to re-write a very considerable part of the work. The practical experience of fourteen years has also enabled the author to increase those details of practice which have rendered this work so valuable to those engaged in the art of gardening. We would especially mention the chapter on *Mangas*, in which it will be seen how greatly horticulture is indebted to the science of chemistry,—and also how necessary it is that theories founded upon the experiments of the chemist should be tested by the practical horticulturist. It is perhaps even more within the sphere of the

gardener to test physiological views than that of the farmer. The latter deals with larger masses of the earth's surface, and has less control over the materials he uses than the gardener. It is on this account that we have been more indebted to the gardener for confirming and correcting the theories of the vegetable physiologist than to the farmer. It is from this point of view that Dr. Lindley's book is not only interesting to those engaged in horticulture, but to all who are studying the physiology of plants. We might refer to the chapters on Germination, Seed-sowing, and Propagation as proofs of our position,—but we select for illustration a subject of wider interest. Every one has heard of Mr. Ward's Cases; and not a few of our readers have, we expect, tried to cultivate plants in them:—and as there is a little mania abroad for cultivating everything in Ward's cases, from a sprig of geranium up to canaries and bullfinches, we give our author's account of these arrangements.—

"As the Wardian Case is largely employed in Horticulture, especially in the decoration of sitting-rooms, it seems desirable to point out in this place what are its real merits and defects. When Mr. Ward first remarked a Grass and a Moss growing inside a damp bottle, he merely saw what gardeners had witnessed for a couple of centuries at least. He beheld the propagator's bell-glass with its edges dipping into wet sand—a close cavity, with transparent sides, and an interior possessing an uniform and unchangeable degree of humidity. Thirty or forty years since, and probably long before, the same principle was employed in the drawing-rooms of the wealthy for the preservation of the freshness of cut flowers: the flowers were placed in a vase; the vase stood in water, and a bell-glass, dipping its edges into the water, covered the whole. There is not the smallest difference in principle between these old contrivances and the modern Wardian Case. But all such plans were merely preservative; no one thought of cultivating plants in close cases, though they found the latter invaluable for keeping plants alive. A cutting under a bell-glass was surrounded with moist air until it had formed roots; but the moment the action of roots was secured it was transferred to the open air. What Mr. Ward did, when he proposed the case that bears his name, was to contrive a large portable bell-glass and its supporter, made of materials strong enough to bear the rough usage of a sea voyage. He demonstrated the defects of the old travelling greenhouses, and suggested a remedy, pointing out at the same time upon what principles the remedy depended. That principle was—1st, to expose plants to light, and—2nd, to insure their being constantly surrounded by a medium damp enough to keep their system in a state of activity. The old travelling greenhouses, or plant cases, were open at the joints, and the water originally contained in them quickly evaporated, leaving a mass of parched earth in which no vegetation could long survive; they were also glazed with talc, or oyster-shells, or other half-opaque materials, through which no such amount of light could pass as plants require for the preservation of their vitality. When properly constructed, the Wardian Case answers perfectly as a means of transporting plants to great distances. It also has its value in places where the air is filled with floating soot or dust; or where it is naturally too dry for vegetation, as in sitting-rooms. There the lives of certain kinds of plants may be maintained for a long period of time, with the appearance of health; shade-loving races, such as Ferns and Mosses, will even thrive there; and others, like dry Crocuses and Hyacinths, which have been previously made ready by the usual processes, out of doors, may be led to blossom in perfection for a season, or in some instances for more. It is asserted, indeed, that plants have been known to grow well, and flourish in Wardian Cases. To that statement I lend an incredulous ear. It will be always found, upon inquiry, that such cases are opened daily and ventilated freely, and thus, or otherwise, relieved from the moisture with which the air is saturated. But those are not Wardian Cases at all; they are merely greenhouses on a small scale,

in which plants grow well or ill, according to the care and skill with which they are managed. A Wardian Case demands neither care nor skill; its operation is essentially automatic; it is its own gardener in every way. The moment its structure enables the possessor to give it daily attention—in short, to cultivate the plants within it, it ceases to be Wardian, and may as well be called by any other name, as has been already shown. Plants cannot be cultivated well in the absence of free access to air in motion. The more rapid the motion, within certain limits, the higher the health of plants, and *vice versa*. This is the foundation of good gardening; and it is precisely this which is unattainable in a Wardian Case. The latter is the opposite of a natural condition; but plants demand all the resemblance to natural conditions which is to be secured by art. Direct, constant, and unrestrained communication with air, perpetually striking and then quitting them, is as necessary to a plant as to an animal; and that the Wardian Case is intended to render impossible. It is not, indeed, too much to add that so far as gardening, properly so called, is concerned, the Wardian Case has done nothing more than was effected years before it was suggested. As a convenient means of enabling plants to support existence under difficult circumstances it has value; and that is all. In short, it is to plants what *tripe de roche*, Bark-bread and Fern-root are to man—a means of prolonging life under difficult circumstances. Nature no more causes plants to grow in half air-tight rooms than amidst rays of coloured light. In the natural world vegetation subsists in its greatest activity in the presence of white light; red light, and yellow light, and blue light are unknown; and if green light occurs, it is only in the recesses of deep forests, where little is to be found except Fungi, or Mosses and Ferns. So it is with unventilated places; they are the exception to the natural law, which declares that living things shall have access to air. The lowest orders of animals and the lowest of plants thrive indeed in such localities, for all places seem to have their allotted inhabitants; but the great world of vegetation knows of no healthy existence except where the air moves freely around it. In suffocated places we find lean and sickly races, too weak to stand alone, and struggling to reach a better atmosphere; these places are the Ward's Cases of the wilderness; natural accidents from which all things endeavour to escape."

Nothing can be more charming than the effect of these cases when plants are cultivated in them for which their atmosphere is congenial,—and nothing is so likely to lead to their neglect and premature abandonment as employing them for purposes for which they are evidently not adapted.

The first chapter in this new edition is devoted to the subject of Vital Force, in which Dr. Lindley contends for the existence of a "vital principle" in plants. No one could object to the use of the term Vitality to express the sum of the physical and chemical actions exhibited during the life of plants, or to the term Vital Force to express the force which is exhibited during these actions, and which is correlative with the other forces in nature, such as heat, light, and chemical affinity. But the use of the term Vital Principle is apt to mislead. Sciolists regard it as a cause, and an unknown and undemonstrated vital principle has ever been the ready refuge of the puzzled physiologist. This term has been long dismissed by writers on Physiology; and only mischief can ensue from the use of it in the loose sense in which it can in any way be employed to express the causes of physiological phenomena.

The Wanderer in Arabia; or, Western Footsteps in Eastern Tracks. By George T. Lowth. With Illustrations. 2 vols. Hurst & Blackett.

The title of this book is, to some extent, deceptive. It promises two volumes descriptive of Mr. Lowth's "wanderings" in Arabia. But Mr. Lowth does not start upon his Arabian journey until the commencement of the second

volume,—the first containing only an account of his boat-voyage up and down the Nile. As this Egyptian narrative is somewhat tame and commonplace, and as it drags us by a very familiar route to scenes that have been painted, well or indifferently, by a hundred successive travellers, it would have been fair to warn "the general reader" that half the work is on Egypt, half on Arabia.

Sparing ourselves any comment on Mr. Lowth's tale of nights and days on the Nile, on his chapter of mystic dialogue, and on his Art-criticisms, we may select from his Arabian recollections some fragments of suggestive description. He was accompanied on the journey by his wife, by a lady friend, and by a small caravan of Arabs and dromedaries. In a style which has occasionally the appearance of being forced, he depicts the incidents of their daily progress, and their halts, among the sand-ridges, the rocks, and the rare pastures of the Desert. On the third evening after leaving Cairo, the camp had been formed amid some low hills.—

"As I stood on one of these, looking towards Suez, a flying figure came out from behind the slopes and went on along the road at a few hundred yards distance—a man on a dromedary, bearing, probably, some Government orders from Cairo to Suez. What a pace the messenger went. For about half a mile the road lay in sight, and over that short space the dromedary passed at the pace of a race-horse. He was evidently put out to his best. Had he come all the way from Cairo at that pace? or had he changed at Dayr-el-Baideh? The style of going reminded you of the movement of the ostrich—the body moving with that peculiar undulation, and swinging, flowing action of the fleet-footed bird, and the neck and head making the same short, sharp, bird-like jerks. Suddenly, in the twilight, this single figure had dashed out from behind a sand-hill into sight, and in a few seconds it was gone, disappearing round a swell of the waste. That solitary form flitting across the sight seemed an object fitting to the scene—and the solitude of the Desert seemed to strike one, after it was gone, as even more complete than before."

From the Desert of Etham, they passed between the Red Sea and the Red Hills of El-Tih—haunts of the gazelle,—through the Wilderness of Sin, bright with varied colours, of porphyries and marbles,—across the hot plains into the pleasant wadys, to the ruins of the Christian town of Feran. Here a delicious rivulet turns the earth green, builds up in the Desert a bower of palms and tamarisks, and fringes its little valleys with rushes and reeds. Thence to Horeb and to Sinai, and to the abode of the fraternity of St. Katherine. Three black monks, cloaked and hooded, watched their approach from the summit.—

"A rope was let down from a door thirty feet high in the long dead wall. This was for the letter from the Greek convent at Cairo, our letter of introduction—then a larger rope was let down for us, and one at a time we seated ourselves in loop, and were drawn up into the Convent fortress,—where, in a great place like a hay-loft, the bearded men—one of them a fine, handsome, dark man of forty, the others, three or four, more aged—received us with much cordiality. It had been proposed, on a view of the height and the loop in the rope, that the Sitteen should go round to the garden gate and enter by a way cut through the rock, a subterranean passage from the garden to the interior; but they would not hear of this irregular proceeding—this sneaking in—and were drawn up according to rule, much to the alarm of the careful Yusuf, who stood, all the while his mistress was mounting, with mouth open and hands clasped, staring up and muttering—'Ya Sitt—Inshallah—Ya Sitt!'"

There was comfort within this curious nest on the rocks; but near it, and entered through the subterranean passage, was an Eden of the wilds:—

"Some almond and apricot standard trees—the

former thirty feet high—and olive, and pomegranate, and others, made pleasant shade, and streams of water, conducted along narrow channels throughout its extent, converted the wilderness into a bower. One of the trees, unknown to any of us, was declared by Parthenius to be of the kind from which the rod of Moses was cut, when he struck the rock in Horeb. There could not be less than four or five acres of ground in these gardens, and our guide led us about them through the green alleys and umbrous walks."

In contrast with the antique sobriety of these Christian recluses, the Arabs of the Desert present some peculiar aspects. Mr. Lowth heard of a characteristic custom of these tribes, the simplest of their race:—

"When an Arab woman intends to marry again after the death of her husband, she comes, in the night before her second marriage, to the grave of her dead husband. Here she kneels and prays to him, and entreats him 'not to be offended—not to be jealous.' As, however, she fears he will be jealous and angry, the widow brings with her a donkey, laden with two goat-skins of water. Her prayers and entreaties done, she proceeds to pour on the grave the water, to keep the first husband cool under the irritating circumstances about to take place; and having well saturated him, she departs."

The caravan moved over the Plain of Ramleh and over the Desert of El-Tih, fitly named The Terrible, and, six days' journey from Sinai, reached Nahkl. At this place Mr. Lowth felt, and enjoyed, the "servid and passionate kiss" of the *khamsin*, the fiery wind. Thence he started for Petra, to some minds more fascinating, in its desolation, than Palmyra or Pompeii. Through the great Valley of Araba, once the crowded path of soldiers and traders, through the agreeable wadys beyond, and across the slopes of Seir and Hor, they journeyed until a sudden turn brought them to the Rock-City. Mr. Lowth refrains from describing it, imagining that, the place itself having been delineated by many artists and travellers, he is judicious in preferring to explain "how you pass your time in Petra." Nevertheless, he has a few Petran sketches, of the deep red precipices, honey-combed with doors and windows, the pediments and cornices wrought in the living rock, the Spanish gable-ends, the staircases, the natural gardens, full of yellow and crimson flowers:—

"It is a place of delusion—and you walk among arches, towers, temple-fronts of exquisite workmanship, dwellings, tombs,—artistic buildings, all fresh and ready for use,—the sandstone rock, or red and warm, or richly variegated as marbles, inviting you; and the many flights of steps leading up—now hidden, now seen again—to the higher excavations a hundred feet above your head, and seducing you to mount and visit the dwellers. You expect to see people look out from those upper windows beneath the expanding arch, and you would scarcely be surprised if they did so."

Mr. Lowth, being accompanied by a Lady—by "the Sitt"—she entered into converse with the Petran women, the wives and daughters of that race which has made its home in the antique city:—

"They were dressed in blue cotton gowns, closed at the neck and reaching to the feet, with full sleeves. A part of the dress fastened on the shoulders behind the head was drawn over it and across the face. The Sitt opened the conversation by saying she had come a long way to see them,—over seas and mountains—very far. 'How far,' said they—'farther than the Wady Araba?'—'Much farther. Have you ever been across the Wady Araba?'—'No—never' (the Petra people are resident folk, and not wandering Bedaween); 'but we are great warriors—are you not afraid to come here among us?'—'We know you are great warriors—but we Ingaleez are terrible warriors too. We Ingaleez hear that the women of Petra are beautiful—I am sure you are both beautiful—let me see your faces.' There was some tittering under their blue wrappers, and they refused, one of them saying—'My husband

would kill me if I uncovered my face.' After some coqueting, however, they consented to do so, on condition that Abbas was sent away, and that the Sitt would go with them behind a projecting part of the rock, out of sight of the men."

"The Sitt" reported that these women had fine white teeth, almond-shaped eyes, broad faces, flat noses, and painfully yellow skins, with blue tattoo.

Mr. Lowth's Arabian sketches are more fresh and interesting than his account of scenes and incidents on the Nile. In the cities of the Holy Land he observed nothing new. If we commend his book, it is for its picturesque and diversified narrative of Desert travel.

MINOR MINSTRELS.

"Fierce wars," as well as "faithful loves," have erewhile "moralized" many a song,—humble enough in itself, but deriving dignity from the theme. We have not had much reason to boast of the lays that have celebrated Crimean battles;—nevertheless, there have been a few of some merit. At all events, Dr. Carl Abel, the German translator of Shakspeare, has thought Mr. Tennyson's Ballad on the Light Brigade, and some other pieces from the journals of the day, including one by Mr. Edmund Peel, to be deserving of translation in a small volume, entitled *Lieder aus der Krimm.* (Berlin, J. C. Huber.) Besides these *Kriegsgesänge*, Dr. Abel has sked out his pages with some of older date, such as Wolfe's ditty on the death of General Moore.

The party in favour of Peace has also its songsters. The Laureate's 'Maud' has provoked an *Anti-Maud*, by a Poet of the People. (Cherton.) Imitating the style and metre of the original, this production is not without point and spirit, and enumerates the benefits we have received from a long peace with justice and knowledge; but, in the application of the argument, we repudiate both the assumed policy and right of the unconditional pacific conclusion which our partisan minstrel so eagerly advocates. By this time, however, "the logic of events" has so effectually answered the rhymers, that the critic is spared the trouble of discussion.

From another poet, who also assumes his popularity, we have another phase of the Peace question. His singular-looking and roughly-illustrated brochure is called *War in Peace: Popery, Puseyism, Church-of-Englandism; addressed to the People of England*, by One of Themselves. (Hope & Co.) Fortunately, the title sufficiently describes the subject of the verses;—the verses may be described, in the language of one of Shakspeare's "wise men in motley":—they are "so-so."

That a religious theme, however, does not necessitate an unpoetical treatment, notwithstanding Dr. Johnson's opinion, is proved by a volume before us, entitled *Devotional Verse for a Month, and other Brief Pieces*, by Thomas Davis, M.A. (Hamilton & Co.) There is much in this collection worthy of being compared with some of the best in Keble's 'Christian Year.' Mr. Davis seems to cherish a love for trees, flowers and birds, having an eye for beauty and an ear for melody;—even in holiness he delights because it is beautiful. A little poem on this topic might be quoted in *extenso*, but the tone of the poet's mind may be proved by brief citation.—

So fond is Nature of the beautiful,
She freezes not a leaf, or blade of grass,
On the moist margin of loneliest brook, or pool,
But Art's most perfect forms she doth surpass.

Unnumbered shapes her viewless fingers mould,
As she delighted in her own sweet powers;
Or would to all who love her haunts unfold
Her skill to deck the everlasting bower.

O passing fair must be the Home above!

A lyrical vein is likewise appreciable in *Poems*,

by William Byrne (Groombridge & Sons), many of which have previously appeared in *Hogg's Instructor* and other periodicals. Genuine, but humble, productions like these are scarcely amenable to criticism. They are natural, for they nestle nigh the ground, but take small swallow flights, that circle ever, but forbear to soar. The sympathies of Mr. Byrne are local and narrow. He sings with feeling of the past and present state of Cheltenham, his birth and dwelling place;—the Sabbath morn, with its quiet and rest, appeals to his heart;—the summer's evening has for him its tale of courtship;—the meeting and the parting of lovers are his favourite themes;—the death of the young touches him to the soul;—and the night has associations—tender, and true, and solemn. In threading this sentimental labyrinth, simplicity of thought and word serves him for a sufficient clue. We have here no depth, and no obscurity, but all is level to the meanest intellect, though essentially poetical. The minstrelsy is, indeed, *minor* in character, but it is popular in its expression.

From innocent and pleasant reading we travel into the thorny walks of lampoon and ill temper. *Lake Leman: a Satire* (Madden), abuses the *Athenæum* and other critical journals in good set terms, for giving opinions that do not please the writer on books that do please him:—any of his own included! The author, who is evidently young in years and crude in judgment, thinks himself a Byron, and his present essay at least equal to the 'English Bards.' He has a great dislike to the Lakist and to German literature, and "all that sort of thing,"—his own notions being at present rather vague on most things. He has, however, learnt the art of versification, and, when "years shall have brought the philosophic mind," he may write something that will deserve to be read, and which we shall read with pleasure and recommend to our friends.

From another neophyte in the art of verse-making, we receive not censure but thanks for having commended his previous efforts. "Scrap's on the Art of Poetry" now ventures a *Poetical Portrait of His Royal Highness Prince Albert.* (Yarmouth, C. Sloman.) He had previously, it seems, produced one of the Queen, which gained, according to his own account, Her Majesty's approbation and ours. The Prince's portrait is preceded by specimens of an intended "epic poem, styled the Crimea, the battles of Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann, &c. &c. The heroes' names are mentioned with their achievements, &c. He is aware of the difficulty of the task; but having already drawn out a rough sketch, he has the confidence to suppose that he will be able to do justice to all parties concerned." Such is the confidence which animates the doughty bard. It is to be hoped that he will "have mercy," as well as "do justice"; for he proposes to write with "a quill of brass," and acknowledges that his Muse is "frantic." The young lady is further described.

The frantic muse, hedged in with earthly mould,
A slave to soothng fancy'sickle flights,
Skimming the surface of terrestrial things,
Strews her vain paper-garden with those fruits,
Whose radiant hangings will her captious eye,
Leaving a world of grandeur for the chart
To epitaph where British valour sleeps.

Dramatic ambition also pertains to "Scrap's," who rewrites Shakspeare's quarrel-scene between Brutus and Cassius, with the benevolent design of enabling the reader "to discern the grandeur of a Shakspeare when compared with the feeble efforts here presented." Such self-sacrifice cannot be sufficiently lauded. We have next some lines on 'The Art of Poetry,'—intended, we suppose, to suggest the superiority of Horace. Then comes the grand Poem de-

voted to the "genius" of the Prince Consort. We hope the latter will appreciate it.

Amatory and other Poems. By A. A. F. (Hardwicke.)—As the title suggests, these lyrics are Anacreontic, but follow at a long distance in the steps of the Grecian master. Poems of this class should be touched with the utmost delicacy, and every line should display refinement and finish. It is not the warmth of Moore that charms the fancy, but the grace and melody.

A Century of Acrostics on the Most Eminent Names in Literature, Science, and Art, down to the Present Time, chronologically arranged. (Simpkin & Co.)—These, whatever their merit, are at least curious, as the productions of a blind versifier. It is hard to guess what charm this form of composition could have to the sightless, the initial letter of the acrostic line being evidently and exclusively addressed to the eye. The volume is prefaced with a brief sketch of the history of acrostic verse, written by a friend. The collection itself begins with Homer, and ends with Victoria. The style is more elevated than is usual with this sort of verse, and there is considerable discrimination in the characteristics attributed to the subject. Each acrostic, too, is preceded by a motto, generally well selected. One will speak for all:—

Wordsworth. 1770—1850.

"My lot has lain in scenes sublime and rude,
Where still devoutly I have serv'd and sought
The Power Divine that dwells in solitude."—Southey.

Wandering, through many a year, 'mongst Cumbria's hills,
O'er her wild fells, sweet vales, and sunny lakes,
Rich stores of thought thy musing mind distils,
Day-dreams of poesy thy soul awakes:—
Such was thy life—a poet's life, I ween;
Worshipper thou of Nature! every scene
Of beauty stirr'd thy fancy's deeper mood,
Reflection calm'd the current of thy blood:
Thus in the wide "Excursion" of thy mind
High thoughts in words of worth we still may find.

We may conclude the present series of Minor Minstrels with a brief notice of an unpretending, but not undeserving, brochure, entitled *A Day on the Downs by the Vale of White Horse, in the County of Berks.* (Hope & Co.)—Topography in verse is not the most promising of experiments, yet even the best poets have taken refuge in local description, not always acknowledged. Some scenes in Southey's epics were copied from localities nearer home than their appellations would imply. Scott's are directly indebted to his local associations. Our Berkshire bard is not without warranty for his lyric strains, and manages the octosyllabic verse with more than usual force and skill. His style has the merit of closeness.

THE WAR.

Two Summer Cruises with the Baltic Fleet, in 1854-5. Being the Log of the "Pet" Yacht, 8 Tons, R.T.Y.C. By the Rev. Robert Edgar Hughes, M.A. Smith, Elder & Co.

WE give our best welcome to a traveller who has done anything original, and thereby acquired a right to publish. Mr. Hughes is one of these. He has spent the two last summers in hovering about the Baltic Fleet in a tiny yacht, witnessing its operations. He tells us, at first-hand, of Bomarsund and Sweaborg,—he sketches sea and coast life many a mile along the old Scandinavian world,—and he appears to be a man whose general and special attainments fit him for the business. So much we say willingly. But the tone of the book is not to our liking. The kind of vivacity assumed jars with the "Rev." of the title-page,—at least, on our ears. It is a *hard* liveliness, which wants true and genial frolic;—the heartiness, the humorousness, the fresh sparkle of good nautical writing are not here. The subject is, in every way, far beyond the ordinary—and sometimes disagreeable—execution. Briefly, we like the material

of the dish; but we do not like the cookery, and we detest the sauce.

Our extracts shall be selected so as to illustrate the actual events of war which occurred under the writer's eyes,—for general descriptions by Mr. Hughes are much like those by other rather lively people. The following paragraphs relate to the capture of Bomarsund; and, as the newspaper correspondence from the Baltic appears to be scant and inaccurate, they will be read with interest:—

"By this time the prisoners had been marched out of the fort, and were collected under a strong guard of English marines and French infantry. It was strange to see the three nations thus brought together.—The English, bold, sturdy, and strong, like bulls of Basan, staring and gaping on the foe; the French, small, active, and brisk, like horses of the Desert; the Russians (I am unwilling to speak slightly of a vanquished foe, but it is the truth) like unclean animals, grunting, wallowing swine. Of course, every allowance must be made for the humiliation of defeat, and for the fact that they were almost all more or less drunk; nor do I express any opinion about the Russians of Alma or Inkermann, for I have not seen them; but these Russians of Bomarsund were such as I have described them. To conclude this disgusting subject, I shall only add, that of those that came under the care of our surgeons, almost all were covered with vermin; and, in sailing through the fleet, we could always distinguish a ship that had prisoners on board, on passing to leeward—by the smell. * * The defence was evidently conducted with a view rather to make a decent show of resistance, and to satisfy the requirements of military honour, than with the hope and resolution to effect any useful object. Actions conducted in such a spirit have never been known to end in success. The Russians, completely overmatched, might have surrendered without a blow and without disgrace. Having once engaged, they should not have surrendered as they did. It was a capital error to allow our ships to pass unmolested through the narrow channel that winds among the woods and rocks between Led Sound and Lumpar Bay. It was a signal disgrace to abandon Fort Tze—indeed, the conduct of the brave old officer in command is in itself a sufficient censure upon the flight of the garrison. The surrender of Fort Nottich was perhaps unavoidable, but the final capitulation of the principal fortress was at all events premature. * * The strength of the fortress, as it stood in 1854, has probably been much over-estimated, but the importance it derived from its geographical position appears scarcely to have been appreciated as it deserves. It commands the Gulfs of Bothnia, Finland, and Riga, overawes Stockholm, and threatens the whole Baltic. The unfortified island of Gotland, with its two excellent havens, and, lower down, the Ertholm rocks, and the Danish island of Bornholm, are so many stepping-stones to Copenhagen, and the keys of the Baltic, and the intervals of sea that separate them would be scarcely too wide for the seven-league strides of Russian power and influence."

In her second cruise—this last summer—the Pet was present at the Sweaborg business. We shall, again, let Mr. Hughes speak for himself. The feelings of one part of the squadron on the eve of the attack are given in the subjoined paragraph:—

"Such were the anticipations of the sanguine; others were of a different opinion—it would be one of those d—d demonstrations; the Admiral had got 7,000 shells sent him, and he might as well expend them here as elsewhere. We should make a devil of a row, burn a confounded lot of powder, and get laughed at for our pains."

The firing of the Russians both at Bomarsund and Sweaborg was, according to Mr. Hughes's distinct assertion, very indifferent. A notion of our bombardment may be gathered from the following:—

"About nine or ten we saw the gunboats going in, and beginning that witches' dance which has been so much admired; and soon after this, as we watched the batteries, a lurid pillar of flame and smoke

leaped up into the air, and burst abroad like a foul tawny fountain, casting an unsightly bouquet of huge black fragments far and wide. Some gentlemen whose letters have appeared in the papers have spoken of the limbs and fragments of human beings which they described careering through the skies; they might just as well have added noses, eyes, and teeth, while they were about it. * * I could not fail to observe that our mortar practice was admirable: frequently, even by daylight, the great black cricket ball could be seen through the greater part of its flight, and its fall was generally attended by an explosion which was sometimes seen, but the more frequent and more destructive shells were only heard to burst. * * The next event in the programme was the night attack of the rocket-boats. Soon after dark, a squadron of cutters and launches from the ships, each fitted with a rocket-tube, went in, and began letting off their fireworks. It was a splendid sight to see the curved flight of the rockets, five or six sometimes under way together, chasing and crossing each other as they flew. The rockets are some of twelve, others of twenty-four pounds' weight, and contain a small shell, which explodes when the rocket reaches its destination, and flames and *digested membra* of smashed properties could sometimes be seen as they fell among the buildings of the enemy. All this time little bright stars might be seen, careering in bold curvilinear orbits over our heads. These were shells from the mortar-boats and the French battery, which never rested from their work day or night. * * In the mean time, these proceedings were not without numerous spectators. On the parade at Helsingfors, crowds of soldiers, sailors, and civilians—man, woman, and child, were knotted together in groups, staring at the progress of ruin, for by this time the fire extended over many acres. I could not, however, detect any symptoms of confusion or dismay. Ladies were attired *selon la règle*, not in dishevelled locks, but in the bonnets and parasols of peaceful life; and I can positively declare that not one of them rent her garments, at least not while we were looking. On our own side, the lower rigging and the hammocks of the ships were covered with swarms of seamen, admiring, applauding, and waiting for their own turn to begin."

Mr. Hughes pronounces on the results of the attack,—on modern naval tactics,—on what was left undone,—and on the partial nature of what was achieved,—with a confidence (and occasionally with a sneering tone) which would be not very welcome from a trained naval man, and which is somewhat irritating from a member of the "Thames Yacht Club." Unfortunately, however, there is too much ground for complaint in our naval operations; and many a seaman—ordinarily indifferent to the criticism of his profession by a "T. G."—will growl acquiescence in this author's remarks on modern tactics. Altogether, we may say of the book, that it is a respectable contribution to the literature of the War.

YEAR-BOOKS.

The Literary and Scientific Register and Almanac (Bogue) makes its fifteenth annual appearance, thus proving that it is in favour with a class. The compiler will, probably, find that it is necessary, as new almanacs multiply, to modify his plan, which is a little obsolete. There is an aspect of pedantry in a manual, designed for the pocket, which affects to offer an epitome of History, Literature, Art, and Science. With his calendar and his tables of practical information, Mr. Gutch attempts to lay open, as in a bird's-eye view, the outlines of almost all sciences—of astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, optics, geology, geography, and statistics—distilling English history into a series of curt memoranda, and presenting, in the matter of physiology, a mass of technicalities. We cannot but think that most persons would be content to look elsewhere for such details. The object of an almanac is to supply information which may be wanted anywhere—on a journey, in an inn, at table, in fact, wherever a man is beyond reach of a library. In other respects, 'The Literary and Scientific Register' is a valuable year-book.

The Business-Man's Note-Book (Edinburgh, Hogg) is, what it assumes to be, a compendium of information necessary to business men. It is thoroughly practical; and if, in some of its departments, the compiler is pretentious, his statements and figures do not, in general, go beyond the limits of plain utility. On the inside of the cover is a circular metallic plate which gives an expeditious reference to any day, month, or year in the current half-century.

Adcock's Engineer's Pocket-Book keeps its specialty strictly in view. It contains, indeed, a general almanac, with tables of the times of high water, lists of the Houses of Lords and Commons, and other variable miscellanies; but its bulk is filled with tables and formulæ for use in superficial and solid mensuration,—strength and weight of materials, and machinery,—and other details of purely professional interest.

In *Lett's Diary; or, Bills Due-Book and Almanac for 1856*, some further improvements have been made. The commercial summary, or chronological record of events affecting commerce last year, is, as usual, a particularly useful feature, carefully developed.

Of the old-fashioned almanacs, *Old Moore's* is the best. It condescends to village credulity by a hieroglyphic picture, in which many a modern Jericho is seen toppling to the earth, with thunderbolts splitting the skies, portentous stars, shadowy wings, the flashes of cannon, and a Trafalgar upon the waters; but the body of the almanac is composed of useful tables, lists, domestic recipes, and other matter of a serviceable character.

The Bolton Almanac and Year-Book of Local and General Information is an example of Bolton enterprise. It is neatly compiled, and justifies, by its contents, the idea of a Local Almanac. This is the fourteenth year of publication.

Mitchell's Newspaper-Press Directory makes its tenth appearance, with a table of contents swelled by the results of this year's legislation. Its utility consists in its complete enumeration of the journals published in the United Kingdom and the British Isles, with statements of their sizes, prices, ages, dates of publication, publishers' names, and nominal proprietorships. The "critical" description of each paper is an absurdity which should be discontinued. It is little more than a loose eulogy with innumerable variations.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Wonders of Science; or, Young Humphry Davy (the Cornish Apothecary's Boy, who taught himself Natural Philosophy, and eventually became President of the Royal Society).—The Life of a Wonderful Boy; written for Boys. By Henry Mayhew. (Bogue.)—It was the favourite boast of Cornwall that the "horn"-shaped county was entitled to blow the praises of its many great men and women. Pious gentlemen delighted in St. Kiley; while the ladies especially honoured that Ursula who took to France eleven thousand maidens of quality, with six thousand handmaids to attend on them, for the purpose of finding husbands for all. How rudely this whole party was treated by the Huns on their way, it is not our place to tell. They who have been to Cologne have heard the story, and know nothing about the facts. Cornish churchmen rejoiced in able William de Greenville and Michael Tregary. The lawyers can only point to witty Will Noy, King Charles's attorney, who, with a just philosophical eye, like young Davy, once told the assaying goldsmiths, when weighing gold in the Star-Chamber, that he would not like to have his actions weighed in their scales. For Cornish men who love personal grandeur, there was King Arthur himself; and professors of civil law honour that John Trigonnell who won knighthood and forty pounds a year for conducting as proctor the divorce case for Henry against Katherine. The Cornish physicians, both of body and soul, had a sort of patron saint in Atwill, the medical parson of St. Tuc, who took fees from the rich, and gave them to the poor, and who must have killed as many as he cured, by his specific of milk and apples. As for literary men, in the early times of letters, they were as numerous in Cornwall

as leaves in Valombrosa,—including Simon Thurway, who audaciously pronounced Moses to be a simpleton in comparison with Aristotle. Nor in the later days of literature is Cornwall less rich in very respectable names,—among them is Carew, famous for two things: for holding a disputation at college with Sir Philip Sydney; and for inventing the "Gambadoe," as it was called, which was at once boot and stirrup. Added to these, is the list of men memorable for some distinguishing quality,—strength of mind or strength of body. If the whole were put together, including Veale of Bodmin, who was said to have been ignorant of no mechanical art, the name and services of Humphry Davy would, perhaps, outweigh them all; and in him Cornwall has a worthier son than can be found upon the crowded county list. A better hero for a boy's book Mr. Mayhew could not have found, and no writer would have treated the story more successfully than he has done. We had long been in want of a "young people's author," and we seem to have the right man in the right place in the person of Mr. Mayhew. He has given us a volume which will not only cheer boys, but encourage mothers. The mother of his hero is the heroine of the book, and imperfect would the story have been were we not told at the conclusion, that the true woman and mother lived to see the greatness which she had foretold, and to give Humphry a chance for which she had impeded the path to mediocrity, and a small income marked out for him by a quaint, kind-hearted, but too exacting patron at Penzance. The story, we must add, does not carry us into the details of Davy's life as a man. It ceases when he ceases to be a home-keeping youth, and proceeds to Bristol, on his first appointment, to commence his struggle with life, and his victory over the sciences. In the story, as Mr. Mayhew tells it, there is, however, no lack of incident. If all that Davy accomplished is not narrated, most of it is foreshadowed, and this is done with a tact which is second nature to the author, and the results of which are most attractive to the reader. Though written for boys, the volume may be profitably consulted by both sexes and all ages. Older readers will find in it a story with excitement enough for those who need such stimulus, and what is far better, with a practical wisdom in its pages, a pouring forth of knowledge in its naturally told incidents, an artistic grouping of characters, and a healthiness of tone, such as distinguish few books,—and no boys' books but those of Mr. Mayhew.

The Adventures of the Caliph Haroun al Raschid. Recounted by the Author of "Mary Powell" (Hall & Co.)—The idea of collecting together in one focus the sayings and doings of the beloved Caliph and his Vizier Giaffir is excellent; and this volume is fascinating, albeit we miss many things we have been accustomed to find written in the time-honoured chronicles of the 'Thousand-and-One Nights.' Not a word is said of the Lady Zobeide and her mysterious house-keeping, and the story of Noureddin is greatly cut down,—for which no one can be expected to feel grateful. Nevertheless the stories as here recounted are well and gracefully told, and the original matter containing the historical traditions that have been handed down of Haroun is on the whole well presented; but we feel quite certain that Sindbad the Sailor would have told a much better story of his voyage to Europe, and of standing face to face with Charlemagne, than is here set down for him. It is not likely that Sindbad, who had seen such marvels in his lifetime, and been in the midst of many dangers, would have made any difficulty in believing in the deeds of Roland and the Paladins; the Author might have made a great deal more of the idea than she has done. This supplementary Voyage of Sindbad reads very flat amongst the other stories, which are equally authentic. The fate of Giaffir and Abasse is touchingly told, and, only that it is a true piece of history, would have been too sorrowful a tragedy to be the ending of so many delightful adventures. To go back to pleasanter matters:—those who want to read the old story of "Coggia Hassan and his Diamond," or the account of "Hassan the Merchant, and the Jar of Olives," and his trial by the boy-Cadi, will find them here, without the endless digressions

which in the original pages render it difficult to follow out a story to the end. The book will be acceptable for a Christmas gift.

Alfred Leslie: a Story of Glasgow Life. Illustrations by J. O. Brown, Esq. (Glasgow, Murray & Son.)—This is a clever, rattling, foolish story, telling of the mode in which dashing young students pass their time, giving specimens also of their various conversations. Although the story is absurd beyond criticism, there is a flow of life and spirit throughout which shows the author to be capable of doing something better,—but then he must get over the present phase of his existence as soon as possible, and become considerably less flippant and less clever.

Sir Thomas; or, the Adventures of a Cornish Baronet in North-Western Africa. By Mrs. R. Lee. With Illustrations by John Gilbert. (Grant & Griffith.)—The story with the above title is as good as its promise;—all the incidents are true and genuine, and not the less amusing for that reason. If Mrs. Lee had been more of a book-maker she would have made more of the introductory chapters, and told us more about Sir Thomas before he went to Africa, and more about the loves and passes between Blanche and the Governor;—but her book is a very acceptable present as it stands.

Parish and other Pencillings. By the Author of "Kirwan's Letters." (Low & Co.)—Many of the papers in this volume have been published in the form of Tracts, and they all more or less bear the characteristics of that form of literature. It is curious that religious tracts intended for gratuitous distribution, and for which a wide circulation is desired, should, with few exceptions, be the driest and dullest efforts at common-place of which the human mind is capable! That any victims can be found to read the general run of religious tracts is wonderful,—but that, even of these, any should be capable of extracting a clear idea out of the dreary desert of twaddle is an exploit we find it difficult to believe. The classes for whom religious tracts are written are rational beings, who have faculties of thought and fancy and imagination, which crave for food, but which refuse to be choked upon Tracts, drier and harsher than the bran stuffing of an old pin-cushion. The proprietors of penny journals understand their public better, and supply what they know from experience will be read. "Parish Pencillings" is about the most unpleasant specimen of a religious book which has fallen in our way for some time. The following passage, taken from a paper called the "Funeral at Sea," may show the general tone and spirit in which it is written:—"Feeling that I could do no good to the dying, I addressed myself to the living. The profane swearer,—the card-player,—the Papist,—the infidel, were there." The exquisite good taste and Christian toleration shown in placing the disciple of another section of the Christian Church in such a category,—with no other sin laid to his charge than being a "Papist,"—speaks for itself, and needs no comment from us.

My MS.: a Tale of Olden Islington. By the Author of "Anne Boleyn." (Hope & Co.)—My MS.'s is a spasmodic, disjointed tale, of which it is difficult to make out the sense. We are only sure of the dullness. It has all the faults of the former work, and has less interest in its pages to extenuate them.

Literary Literal Diversion. (J. & C. Mozley.)—The title-page of this volume contains a mass of incoherent words, with Hans Whare Sitorperch subscribed, whether as the author's name, or as an occult motto, we are at a loss to tell. As Preface, the compiler writes:—"No light labour to the sound of pipe and tabour the present compilation!—labour truly still of love, as cooing (wooming) is to dove, and eke of exultation (though not of exaltation) as the author's own creation! His time to fill up, and to fill up old Time!" With this introduction we quit him, unable to guess why a book so ridiculous should have been published.

Sebastopol: the Story of its Fall. By G. R. Emerson. (Routledge & Co.)—In this treatise the reader will find a well-condensed narrative, with an introductory sketch of the history of the Crimea, and of the assumed policy of the Russian Government.

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Two Months in and about the Camp before Sebastopol. By R. C. Macormick, jun. (Westley.)—We have here an American's observations in the camp before Sebastopol. Mr. Macormick is "of New York," and reached the Crimea shortly before last Christmas-day. He describes the sufferings of the army as appalling,—the conduct of officers and men as heroic. On ordinary days, he remarks, while the works on both sides were proceeding, all was so quiet and so picturesque that it appeared as if the city and environs had been restored to peace. However, though Mr. Macormick was witness of no battles, he saw some of the moving incidents of war—sorties and the flames of night cannonades. His volume, though it contains little that is new or striking, is well worth perusal, as an unaffected and unprejudiced description of camp life, and of the spirit and bearing of the English and their Allies in the field.

Reply of a Belgian General Officer to the Charges made in England against the Character of the Belgian Troops in the Campaign of 1815. By General Renard. Translated by T. S. Jones. (Jeffs.)—General Renard wrote these letters in answer to the misrepresentations of Mr. Mac Farlane and Sir A. Alison. The misconduct of the Belgians at the Battle of Waterloo had been exaggerated by these writers, whose errors have been repeated in the House of Lords, and echoed by the press. General Renard, therefore, has broken a lance for the soldiers of his nation. He minutely recapitulates the circumstances of Quatre Bras and of the 15th of June, and argues that the character of a military force is exhibited, not by an isolated act, but by its general behaviour in the course of a campaign. In the case of the Belgians, General Renard shows, with sufficient distinctness, that they displayed much valour and capacity in the war which was ended at Waterloo, and that they received many praises, not only on the Continent, but in England.

Harper's Story-Books. No. 10. *The Harper Establishment; or, How Story-Books are Made.* (New York, Harper.)—The engravings and text in this little book prove that "Harper's Establishment" is worth describing. The building is colossal, and is an example of the American style. It is composed principally of two "blocks," five stories in height, with "a cellar and a sub-cellars." In the space between is a circular tower, which contains the common stairway for the entire structure, with which it is connected at both sides by light iron bridges, one above another. The main front is of iron,—the floors are of solid iron and brick. Jacob Abbott takes his readers through the establishment, describing all the processes of composing, taking proofs, correcting, "working off," binding, and publishing. His explanations are popular in style, and as the American system of printing and publishing is not exactly identical with our own, the volume may have other than young readers.

Index Testacologicus. Nos. I.—VII. By W. Wood. Edited by Sylvanus Hanley. (Willis.)—Those who have experienced the value of this illustrated catalogue of British and foreign shells will be glad to hear that the coadjutor of the late Edward Forbes in the British Mollusca, Mr. Hanley, is editing this re-issue. So extensive are the additions and the new synonyms that it may be said to be a new work.

Vis: a Treatise on the Predominating Influence of the Sunbeam throughout Creation, not only in the Production, directly or indirectly, of all Terrestrial Phenomena, but as the sole Agent in occasioning and sustaining the Movements of the Heavenly Bodies. By E. B. Bright. (Weale.)—We give the author of this book the benefit of its full title, as it explains much better than we could the nature of his work. It will be seen that he is attempting to grapple with a vast subject, and one that has already occupied the minds of the profoundest natural philosophers. Researches upon the nature of the physical forces are undoubtedly tending to demonstrate the probability of the theory of their ultimate unity; and Mr. Bright, in the present book, seems to us to be anxious to arrive at that goal by a sudden mental jump rather than by the laborious road of experimental research. His essay

is not without interest, as he has evidently read with care the works of those who have already devoted attention to this subject.

Additional Speeches, Addresses, and Occasional Sermons. By Theodore Parker. 2 vols. (Boston, Little & Co.)—These Addresses are, for the most part, on subjects of local interest, and their reputation is likely to be ephemeral. They are not eloquent in the highest sense of the word; but they are vigorous, rapid, and, so to speak, dramatic. Mr. Parker has one idea, which he works perpetually into new forms,—appealing, of course, to the sentiments of the Anti-slavery party in America. His Speeches on the present aspects of freedom, on the Nebraska Bill, on the condition of the United States, on the "dangers which threaten the rights of man," are good as specimens of declamatory controversial composition, and possess a literary as well as a social interest;—but, massed together in volumes, they cannot fail to become monotonous. Slavery is the burden of every page; from the anti-slavery point of view Mr. Parker judges all men, all classes, all events. He preaches on the 'Public Functions of Woman,' and turns intuitively to a case of Boston kidnapping. An 'Oration' on the death of Daniel Webster swells into an invective against "the keeper of slavery's dogs." It is perhaps well that earnest minds—and Theodore Parker has an earnest mind—should be devoted to particular works; but men often lose their impartiality in their speciality, and Mr. Parker's speciality is too overpowering to leave him much discretion. Of Daniel Webster he said, and permits his sayings to be published, that Webster's reputation for religion was founded on the fact that he quoted Habakkuk, and other similar circumstances, that he wanted courage, that he was selfish, possessed little or no conscience, and "lacked" in moral principles and intellectual ideas. This comprehensive style of condemnation has not much force,—nor are we the more disposed to accept Mr. Parker's dictum on a dozen essential questions, because he seems to have applied himself to the study of only one. As an indication of the course now taken by the mind of "New America," his Sermons and Speeches may be studied, but they are the production of a partisan, and are too false in manner, and too invertebrate in their monotony to be accepted as lasting contributions to the oratory of the New World.

Mr. Owen perseveres in his illustration of *The New Existence of Man upon the Earth*, issuing a seventh part of his "View." Perhaps the reader forgets that the Millennium commenced last May. In this part we have the correspondence of a crowned angel, and some advice from Tom Paine, from Cobbett, and other spirits.—"Anglo-American," in *Money, Morals, and Progress*, takes facts as he finds them, and connects the evils of the world with some defects he discovers in our money and marriage laws.—Dr. Chase confines himself, in *A Letter to the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Palmerston*, to one topic,—that of Sunday observances, which are also treated, by "An Oxford M.A.," in *The People's Sunday*, a letter to Lord Grosvenor.—Mrs. Norton's Letter to the Queen has elicited a spirited pamphlet full of *Remarks upon the Law of Marriage and Divorce*.—Upon other subjects affecting the organization of society, we have an account of *The Origin and Progress of National and Industrial Schools at Finchley*, showing their effect in preventing juvenile delinquency,—and *Thoughts on the Scottish Education Question*, by "A Member of the Church of England."—Dr. R. J. Mann's *Lessons in General Knowledge*—second series—are constructed on new plan, and are well calculated to teach and please.—In the *Third Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library of Liverpool* we should have been glad to find more specific details. What books and what authors have been most largely read? The Report says, that "miscellaneous literature" has had most readers after "novels and works of imagination"—but what is "miscellaneous literature"?

Mr. John Bruce Norton's *Inaugural Lecture on the Study of the Law and General Jurisprudence*, delivered in the Presidency College of Madras,

has been published at Madras by the Messrs. Pharaoh. It is an elaborate and polished Essay.

—At the other end of the educational scale, we have a "wee," but not a "modest," tract, entitled *Mind your Stops! Punctuation made Plain, and Composition Simplified for Readers, Writers, and Talkers.*—A more useful didacticism is displayed in *How to Detect Adulteration in our Daily Food and Drink.*—Information is offered upon science and morals in *The Doctor's Vision: an Allegory*, by Mrs. H. H. B. Paul.—Fancy, Firmness and Self-esteem being personified after the fashion of Spenser.—*Mrs. Boss's Niece* is also a "story with a purpose," skillfully and gracefully told.—*The Railroad Children* is a charming tale for the young, by the Author of "The Heir of Redclyffe."—From *A Visit to the Water-Fowl* the least precocious reader may learn something of Natural History.

Of the following pamphlets a mere mention will suffice:—*A Complete Decimal System of Money and Measures*, by W. H. R. Jessop, B.A.—*Two Lectures on the Geology of Worcestershire*, by J. S. Pakington.—*Notes of some Remarkable Objects exhibited in the French, Foreign, and British Colonial Departments of the Paris Universal Exhibition*,—*The Laws relating to the Lascars and Asiatic Seamen in the British Merchants' Service*, by Lieut.-Col. R. M. Hughes,—and *A Report on the Results of the Different Methods of Treatment pursued in Epidemic Cholera in the Provinces throughout England and Scotland in 1854*, by the Treatment Committee of the General Board of Health.

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THE IGNATIAN CONTROVERSY.

The genuineness of the Ignatian Epistles is a question which has occupied the attention of theological critics for the last 300 years. All the learning and ingenuity of Baronius and Calvin in the sixteenth century, and of Pearson and Daille in

the seventeenth, with a host of other competent men, went no further than to raise and to repel doubts. Archbishop Usher, in his edition of the Ignatian Epistles published at Oxford in 1644, declared that he could not venture to promise that the genuine Ignatius could be recovered without the aid of another Greek text, which he hoped to obtain from a manuscript in the Medicane Library at Florence,—or at least without the aid of a Syriac copy, which he did not despair of procuring from Rome. The Medicane manuscript was published, but the difficulties remained the same. The Syriac version, which was then looked to as affording the only probable clue to the solution, eluded the most diligent and anxious search for a period of 200 years. It was reserved for the Rev. William Cureton, now a Canon of Westminster, to supply this clue. Mr. Cureton discovered among a most important collection of Syriac manuscripts, procured for the British Museum by Archdeacon Tattam, in the year 1843, from the Monastery of St. Mary Deipara of the Syrians, in the Desert of Nitria, three entire Epistles, which he published in the year 1845. This publication naturally excited great attention on the part of those who felt an interest in the subject, and called forth severe strictures from some who seemed to consider that to remove any part of the seven Epistles of Ignatius was to take away so much from the foundations of episcopacy. The form which the controversy now took led to the publication, in 1849, by Mr. Cureton, of the 'Corpus Ignatianum,' in which the editor brought together "a complete collection of the Ignatian Epistles,—genuine, interpolated, and spurious; together with numerous extracts from them, as quoted by ecclesiastical writers down to the tenth century," and accompanied by a full history of the controversy from its commencement. The most important reply elicited by this new work appeared, in 1851, in the 21st volume of the 'Zeitschrift für die historische Theologie,' in which the author, Gerhard Uhlhorn, enters into a long and learned examination of the question, under the title 'Das Verhältniss der syrischen Recension der ignatianischen Briefe zu der kürzern griechischen, und die Autentie der Briefe überhaupt.' The result at which the author arrived was, that "The seven letters according to the shorter Greek recension, are the genuine productions of Ignatius of Antioch." Here the subject has rested until the present year, when the question has been again opened, and in the same journal. The new champion is Dr. Richard Adelbert Lipsius, who, in a paper entitled 'Ueber die Achttheil der syrischen Recension der ignatianischen Briefe,' goes over the ground again with all the learning of his predecessors in the same field, but more at length,—examining in detail, and with great critical acumen, the arguments which have been adduced by both sides in this discussion. Dr. Lipsius adopts all the reasoning of the learned editor of the 'Corpus Ignatianum,' and arrives at the same conclusion,—viz., that the three letters to Polycarp, to the Ephesians, and to the Romans, in the form in which they appear in the Syriac Recension are the genuine letters of Ignatius; but that the present recension of the seven Letters are from a later hand, in which the three genuine letters have been remodelled, and to these three four new ones added." It is a circumstance not to be overlooked, that this full adoption of Mr. Cureton's views has appeared in the same journal which gave to the world Uhlhorn's lucubrations, and speaks highly for the honest desire of its conductors to promote the cause of truth, and that only. Uhlhorn's paper was published in a somewhat condensed form in English by the Rev. Henry Browne, Prebendary of Chichester, in the *Theological Critic* for 1852. It is to be hoped that Mr. Browne, or some other equally competent scholar, will hasten to present us in an English dress the other side of the question, as drawn by Dr. Lipsius. Dr. Lipsius's work has placed in a yet stronger light, if possible, the sagacity of Archbishop Usher, in directing attention to the Syriac version of the Epistles, and the importance of Mr. Cureton's labours in giving to the world his 'Corpus Ignatianum.'

'HIAWATHA' AND THE 'KALEVALA.'

Mr. Howitt has made in his replication what special pleaders term a departure. The ground taken in his first letter was, that 'Hiawatha' is written in "the old national metre of Finland." I am glad to have this opportunity of supplying an omission in my communication, viz., that, although the second, third, and fourth feet in a Finnish verse are trochees, the first may be either a trochee, an iambus, a pyrrhic, a spondee, a tribrach, a dactyl, or an amphimacer (see Eurén's 'Finnish Grammar,' Abo, 1849, p. 34). This, indeed, is to some extent apparent from the Finnish quotation contained in my letter; and, when coupled with the alliterative peculiarities which I previously pointed out, shows pretty clearly that Mr. Howitt, before dogmatizing on the subject, had never examined two lines of original Finnish poetry.

I may observe that the circumstance which led to the adoption of the rhymeless trochaic dimeter by Castrén and Schieffner in their translations of the 'Kalevala' possibly was, that Goethe had already employed that metre in the 'Finnisches Lied,'—one of his minor poems.

Mr. Howitt comes to what he calls the hero 'Kaleva.' If Mr. Howitt had looked into Castrén's 'Lectures on the Finnish Mythology,' to which I referred, and which were published about twelve years after the Swedish version of the first (and incomplete) edition of the 'Kalevals,' he would have found that eminent scholar's mature opinion—directly opposed to his earlier views—on this subject. There Mr. Howitt may also find that the giant Wipunen, who certainly was not "the ancestor of the Finnish warriors," is often called in the runes "Kaleva" (*hero*, not *heroic*, as I inadvertently stated), and that Wainämöinen is termed adjectively as well "Kaleva" as "Kalevan poika" (*hero's son*). This seems hardly reconcileable with the supposition that Kaleva was "a real old man and hero." Lemminkäinen, too, as well as Kullervo, is called "Kalevan poika,"—and it will scarcely be asserted that these heroes were Wainämöinen's brothers. The fact is, that "the hero 'Kaleva'" is purely an invention of Ganander, or some other Finnish mythologist of the old school, whose error, as indorsed by Castrén before sufficiently investigating the matter, Mr. Howitt has accepted and retained despite his "many years' prosecution of these studies."

I admit the possibility of Lemminkäinen having been originally identical with Ahto, the sea-god. But when the 'Kalevala' was composed, the god and the hero, in obedience to a mythological law, had become distinct personages. This appears conclusively in the forty-second rune (2nd ed. v. 207), where Wainämöinen, rowing homeward with his two comrades, invokes Ahto in the presence of Lemminkäinen.

As to the divinity of Wainämöinen, if Mr. Howitt will turn to the seventh rune of the 'Kalevala,' 2nd ed., he will find his "Finnish Apollo," after a horse has been shot under him, falling into the waves, carried out to sea by a storm, and exclaiming,

"Woe is me, the man unhappy!
Woe is me, the son of sorrow!
That, my own dear land forsaking,
From my homestead I departed."—(vv. 19-22.)

—Afterwards, in the same rune, an eagle addresses him:—

"Man, why art thou in the ocean?
Hero, thou in the wet of billows?"
Wainämöinen, old and truthful,
In these words himself made answer:
"I, a man, am in the ocean,
I, the hero, 'mong the billows,
For unto the North I wended,
There to woo the Maid of Mistland."—(vv. 55-62.)

—Further on, when the eagle has borne him on his wings to shore, the Hostess of Pohjola addresses the hero: "Arise now, O man, out of the wetness!" And the singer of the 'Kalevala' himself says of Wainämöinen:—

"So she took the man from weeping,
Took the hero from his wailing."—(vv. 225, 226.)

Numerous other passages might be brought forward to show that, in the mythic epos for which Dr. Lönnrot collected materials, divinity was not

ascribed to Wainämöinen. Mr. Howitt, indeed, "for brevity's sake," only attempts an *argumentum ad verecundiam*, quoting Molbech's dictum, that Wainämöinen was "the Finnladic Orpheus, the God of Song." I am sorry to find Molbech, to whom Danish philologists are under real obligations, capable of so commonplace and inaccurate a description—a new example of the tendency which leads the enthusiastic, but uncritical, congregation of Dr. Mac Guffog to call that divine "the Ezekiel of Clackmann."

W. S.

2, Russell Street, South Shields,
Dec. 10.

The question as to whether or not Longfellow's 'Hiawatha' is in the national metre of Finland seems not unlikely to raise a controversy in your columns. "W. S." says it is not; I am inclined to think it is. But I am not prepared to do more than state one or two facts.

The Finnish or Suomi language, which, like its cognate, the Hungarian or Magyar, is referred by philologists to the agglutinative or Tatar stock, is a highly developed and most vigorous tongue, superior in many respects to the greater number of inflected European languages. It abounds in vowels, and is very melodious; and the majority of its primitive terms are dissyllabic and trochaic. Take a few examples:—

Finnish.	Hungarian.	English.
Elä	él	live
Kala	hal	fish
Karva	ször	hair
Käsi	kéz	hand
Kuva	kep	shadow
Kylmä	hü	cold
Nuoli	neyll	snow
Oksa	ág	branch
Pelke	fél	fear
Sauva	süt	smoke
Wanha	vén	old

To monosyllabic words adopted from other languages the Suomi adds a final vowel, which Schleicher terms *volatile*. Thus, the German *rath*, *counsel*, and *hut*, *hat*, are introduced under the forms *raati* and *hattu*.

It is chiefly in the northern parts of Finland, or rather in Russian Lapland, that the Finnish language is heard at the present day. Along the Gulfs of Finland and Bothnia, Russian and Swedish prevail in the towns, while the peasants speak a mixed jargon, of which only the basis is Suomi. The Finns were subjugated by Eric the Ninth, king of Sweden, and converted to Christianity, in 1156—700 years ago; and from that early period literature, and especially poetry, began to be cultivated among them; but, being chiefly oral, and rarely printed or even written, nothing of great antiquity remains, the oldest poems extant being of a date subsequent to the Reformation. In the more remote districts the peasants are still addicted to poetical composition. The verse they employ is that commonly called the Runic, which is exactly that of Longfellow's poem, being trochaic and octosyllabic, that is, composed of lines of eight syllables, long and short alternately. Instead of rhyme, they use alliteration, there being in each line two or more words containing the same letter or sound, thus:—

Nuco nuco pico linto,
Wessi wessi wester eki.

The language, admitting no prefixes, favours this sort of rhythm. Many of the peasants, unaided by education, are capable of producing respectable verses on ordinary subjects almost or quite extempore. The recitation, or composition, of such songs, sometimes accompanied with the harp, forms one of the most frequent amusements at festive rural meetings. The reciter stands in the midst of a circle of auditors, and, having sung, or delivered, one line, a condutor, taking up the last word or last but one, finishes the line along with him, and then repeats it alone, which gives the reciter time to recollect or compose another, and so on. The Finns are not less sensible to the charms of music than to those of poetry; but, probably owing to the imperfection of their national instrument, they have not made great progress in the Cecilian art. Their *harpu* (another trochaic word by the way) consists of five strings, or chords, of metal, each of which sounds a distinct note,—A B C D E; and within the compass of these five

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notes their whole music is confined. But the violin has been introduced into the country since about the close of last century, and the simple national airs, long so cherished, have now to a great extent given place to foreign productions of a more varied character. The genuine Finnish poetry and music, however, are quite as infantil and monotonous, or "plain and childlike," as any that can have proceeded.

From the lips of Nawadah,
The musician, the sweet singer,
In the land of the Dacotahs.

I am, &c., W. BROCKIE.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE call for Public Examination—as a means of getting the right men into the right places—is becoming universal. Even at the Bar, where the love of old things (old wines, old studies, old procedures) are believed to linger longest, the cry for Examination is raised and in such a way as to command attention. Our readers are aware that until two or three years ago, a call to the Bar said no more for a man than that he possessed gentlemanly connexions, lived in London part of the year, and had eaten a certain number of dinners, consisting of excellent mutton and indifferent wine. The rule was then made stricter:—the student being offered his choice of attendance on a double course of Readings during a whole year or a public examination. But this rule gave fresh trouble to the student, without changing the previous system. Young gentlemen, wishing to be at the Bar, for no particular reasons, perhaps, unless it be from a fixed desire not to practise Law as a profession, took the drowsy Reading as they swallowed the bad wine—with a grimace; obeying the regulation and in their hearts laughing at it as a comedy. While the Reader was intent upon Coke and profound upon Bracton, the vivacious student, like Scott in the Law Court, was penning a stanza or drawing a caricature; and when the reading concluded, he adjourned to his chambers to smoke cigars, drink pale ale, and prepare for that course of legal mutton in the dining-hall which is mystically supposed to confer the right of taking rank with the Bacons and Mansfields and Cranworths of England. A system so absurd was not likely to escape the sarcasms and laughter of a set of lively young fellows; the laughter seems to have gradually crept upwards to the Benches; and it is now proposed, by means of a compulsory Examination of all students, to make the call to the Bar a proof of a legal education. Of course the legal authorities will not decide in haste,—it is not the way at our Inns of Court; and there will be time enough to discuss the proposal in detail. Two examinations are proposed:—one at entrance as a student; one at the call to the Bar. The first, according to the recommendation, will be in the Latin language and English History:—to neither of which, we opine, will any one seriously object. Half the Codex of mankind are written in Latin, and the language is therefore as necessary to a barrister as Greek is to a divine, or French to a modern dramatist. The History of England includes the rise, progress, and consolidation of our legal system. At the Call it is proposed to make the examination special, if not severe: so that a barrister's right to ruin a confiding client will rest on the same kind of ascertained fitness for the task as the physician's privilege to kill his patient. Will the Council of Legal Education have the courage to adopt the suggestions of their committee and thus introduce a second reform into their system within a few months? If so, we shall expect to hear that the Temple has been rent asunder and the Thames turned its course back towards Brentford!

Meanwhile, we see with pleasure that the Council have adopted as one of the text-books for students Mr. N. Lindley's 'Introduction to the Study of Jurisprudence':—a work which has been introduced, with the praise which it deserves, to the notice of our readers.

As an illustration of the waste of good historical portraits for lack of a public gallery in which they might be preserved, Mr. George Roberts informs us that a lady who has charge of the ladies' waiting-room at the Portsmouth Railway Station wit-

nessed, not long ago, the destruction of an original portrait of Ridley the Martyr. The picture was in the possession of two aged ladies of the Martyr's family. When very old, these ladies were haunted with a fear that the portrait of their great ancestor would come to shame—would fall into the hands of some pawnbroker—and to prevent this disgrace they cut it into strips and burnt it!

Mr. Hodgson sends us the following, which we think will be satisfactory to our Correspondent whose note we printed last week:—

13, Paternoster Row, Dec. 14.

Sir,—In answer to your paragraph in last Saturday's number of the *Athenæum*, the proprietors of 'The Stratford Shakspere' inform me that the concluding volumes of that work are nearly ready, and will be issued in January next punctually.

Yours, &c. T. HODSON.

Cardinal Wiseman contradicts the report of his appointment as Librarian of the Vatican.

At the sale, last week at Mr. Hodgson's Rooms, of a collection of choice books, a few lots were scattered at good prices. A fine copy of 'Purchas, his Pilgrimes and Pilgrimage,' 5 vols. folio, produced 41L 10s.,—a beautiful copy of 'The Poems of John Taylor, the Water Poet,' folio, 1630, now of rare occurrence, fetched 13L.—Smith's 'History of Virginia, New England, &c.,' 1629, sold for 8L 12s.—Barclay's 'Ship of Fools,' folio, black letter, 1570, brought 6L 12s. 6d.—Geffray Fenton's 'Tragical Discourses,' black letter, small 4to, 1579, sold for 7L. Among less important lots we may name—Thevet's 'New Found Worlde,' black letter, small 4to, sold for 5L 18s.—Head's 'English Rogue,' 2 vols. 12mo, 1672, for 4L 4s.—Head's 'Nugæ Veniales,' small 12mo, 1686, for 6L 6s.—'Art Asleep Husbande?' a Boulster Lecture, stored with Witty Jeasts, Merry Tales, &c., 1640, small 12mo, for 6L 8s. 6d. The rest of the books, comprising a collection of Facetiae, Early English and Scottish Poetry, and other interesting works, realized high prices throughout the three days' sale.

The Council of the Horticultural Society have ordered all the valuable collection of dried plants for the herbarium, formed by their travellers during the last forty years, to be sold by auction in the course of January. We understand that among the collections are those which were consulted by the Authors of the 'Flora Boreali Americana,' the 'Niger Flora,' &c., in studying which the original specimens are of great importance. We believe there has been no such opportunity for collectors since the dispersion of Mr. Lambert's Herbarium.

A new model of the Siege of Sebastopol, constructed by Signor Tenicia, is on view at the Hanover Square Rooms. It is a vast work; roughly modelled; and, we imagine, not very correct. It differs from the great model in Leicester Square. Signor Tenicia has lived in Sebastopol—but this was twenty years ago, when the town, we take it, was not exactly the Sebastopol conquered by the Allies. While on this subject of the War, we may announce the publication, by Mr. Wyld, of a plan of 'The Siege of Kars,' showing the various positions won and lost by the Russian troops on the day of their terrible repulse from the city forts.

Quoting a wish, expressed by us some weeks ago, to have seen the name of the compiler of a volume of 'Medieval History' [ante, p. 1186] placed on the title-page, a Correspondent, who gives his name, and furnishes certain facts in justification, urges strong opinions against the system of suppression practised by the Messrs. Chambers. He gives us an instance in which these publishers refuse, in spite of protest and remonstrance, to allow the writer's name to appear on a work of research. If the facts be as they are stated to us, we are not surprised at our Correspondent's feeling. We imagine that legally and morally an author is entitled to the credit of the work done; unless he engage beforehand to write under the common obligations of the anonymous writer. Where there is no understanding of this nature, and an author merely contracts to supply a book on a given subject, we fancy there can scarcely be a question of the author's right to set his name upon his article.

The Bath City Lectures appear to be gaining strength and interest,—a fact very creditable to the

system adopted in the delivery, and to the intelligence of a town where "Wisdom and Wit are little seen" and where Folly flutters "at full length." A programme of the winter course is now before us: a good course, with excellent miscellaneous subjects, to be treated by good men. Among other names and subjects we see announced "The Crimea," by Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P.,—"On the Mode of Deciphering the Hieroglyphical and other Writings of the Egyptians," by Mr. W. Tite, M.P., and "On the Coloured Population of London," by Dr. Latham.—While on the ground of these Bath Lectures, the progress of which we have noticed with increasing pleasure during the four seasons of their existence, let us ask what has become of that other popular movement—the proposal to establish a Free Library in the city? Are its friends smitten with alarm by the victory of Gog and Magog over the men of brains in London?

Mr. Bard answers the charge of plagiarism from the stories of Mr. Costello, as follows:—

New York, Nov. 18, 1855.

A Correspondent of the *Athenæum*, of the 20th ult. (Oct.), Mr. Dudley Costello, has called public attention to what he imagines to be a plagiarism in my little work, 'Waikna,' from a tale written by him, and entitled 'Beware of the Chocolate of Chiapa.' Opinions may differ as to whether there exists any substantial resemblance between the incident recounted in 'Waikna,' and that given in Mr. Costello's tale. But whatever of similarity there may be is entirely accidental, as I never saw the tale in question. Furthermore, Mr. Costello's incident is purely imaginary; while any doubts in reference to the adventure described in 'Waikna' may easily be dispelled by the testimony of the Mr. H. of the narrative,—who is Mr. Stanislaus Haly, at present, I believe, Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Agent at Cape Gracias. The whole matter is really of very little consequence; and the explanation which I have given cannot probably be of the slightest interest to any one, except to Mr. Costello; and to him only as affording another illustration of the saying that "truth is stranger than fiction."

I am, &c.

SANL. A. BARD.

Our cousins of America are too young to have fully acquired all the expensive tastes of more advanced life, but they are "progressing" favourably. Among the tastes to which we refer is Autograph collecting. We happen to know that there are not a few zealous collectors in the more literary cities of the Union, but they are divided by distance, and do not form a sect. At a sale of literary property the other day, by the firm of Messrs. Bangs Brothers, in New York, only thirty or forty persons attended, although the auction was pompously heralded as of "choice autographs of many of the heroes of the Revolution, signers of the Declaration of Independence, Members of Continental Congress, generals, presidents, statesmen, authors, &c., forming a collection which it would be very difficult to obtain." The prices given were not of an amount to flatter the self-love of existing celebrities, or to show much appreciation of the caligraphy of the dead. Washington's signature to a document on South Carolina affairs fetched the highest price—in English currency equal to 47s.,—a Certificate of Membership of the Society of Cincinnati, signed by Washington and countersigned by the Secretary of the order, Henry Knox, 25s.,—John C. Calhoun's signature as Vice-President of the United States, 13s.,—List of the Directors of the Philadelphia Library in 1732, in the handwriting and with the signature of Benjamin Franklin, 13s. 6d.,—A History of Steam-engines as applied to Navigation, with draft of an Act protecting the invention, signed by Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston, 32s.,—Jefferson and Madison's joint signatures, 20s.,—an account and receipt by Benedict Arnold, 20s.,—John Quincy Adams, countersigned by Secretary Pickering, 10s.,—Andrew Jackson, 10s.,—Van Buren, 6s.,—John Tyler, 5s.,—Munroe, 8s. 6d.,—James K. Polk, 1s. 10d.,—Daniel Webster, 1s.,—and a large number of governors, senators, and minor celebrities were cleared off at the appreciative figure of 6d. Three or four competitors made all the purchases.

M. Flourens, member of the Académie Française and one of the Permanent Secretaries of the Académie des Sciences, has begun a new edition of the works of Buffon,—the best and most complete, it is asserted, which has hitherto appeared. It is preceded by a memoir of Buffon and his writings.

The *Moniteur* reports that the Town Library of Lyons has made the acquisition of the finest monument of French typography during the nineteenth century, namely, the only complete copy on vellum of the 'Collection des Meilleurs Ouvrages de la Langue Française,' printed by Pierre Didot the elder. Of the seventy-five volumes of this collection, two copies were printed on the finest vellum (*peau de vénin*), at an expense, to the printer, of 80,000 francs. One of these copies was kept for the establishment of MM. Didot, the other was sold to the Emperor Alexander the First, and is now to be found (though in an incomplete state, several volumes being lost) in the Library of the Hermitage at St. Petersburg. During the lifetime of the late Pierre Didot, large sums were offered to him by various foreign princes for the only complete copy remaining in his possession, but he firmly refused all offers, willing that this copy should remain in France. His will has now been accomplished. The Town Library of Lyons is said to be exceedingly rich in rare and splendid works.

We string together a few scraps of literary news from the foreign journals. In the *Brussels Herald*, we read that the negotiations between Belgium and Austria, for the restoration of a mass of historical records, which were carried away to Vienna when the Imperialists fled from Flanders, are at an end—the Austrian Government permitting that of Belgium to take copies of the documents.—The King of Holland has lately conferred on Prof. Haffmann von Fallersleben the cross of the Order of the Netherlands Lion for his work, 'Hornæ Belgicae.'—M. Pascal Duprat has begun a course of lectures at the Cercle Artistique in Brussels, on the works and doctrines of Malthus.

The Astronomical Society's *Monthly Notice* for November contains a letter from the Russian astronomer, M. Otto Struve, to Mr. Airy,—which, it seems, the Russian Government has allowed to pass, though directed to London. Perhaps the transit was permitted in favour of the following information, intended to hint to us how useless it is to keep up war with the Czar. After noting that 6,000 miles and more of galvanic wires have been recently set up, M. Otto Struve proceeds as follows:—

It is really remarkable, that the war until now has not exercised the least influence on the progress of any scientific pursuit for which the support of Government is wanted. On the contrary, the energy elicited by the state of war in one principal direction has given rise, also, to a development of energy in many other respects. This will be proved in part by a short enumeration of the principal geographical undertakings, in the arrangement or direction of which we had to take a part this year. First, started from here a numerous party, under the direction of M. Schwarz, for the exploration of Eastern Siberia; another party was sent to the Steppes of the Kirghis; a third, under the personal direction of Döllen, had to fix the exact geographical positions of a large number of points situated in or near the Ural Mountains to form a base for the construction of an exact topographical map of the vast districts of mines in that part of Russia; a fourth Expedition, provided with forty chronometers, has to join, first, Moscow with Saratow; and, then, this latter town with Astrachan; and, finally, the great trigonometrical operations in the southern part of Russia, and in the Transcaucasian provinces, are carried on without the least interruption.

—These statements are meant for Western readers:—and will be so far satisfactory to all parties in England, as they assure us that the interests of science are not suffering by the presence of our troops in Russia.

Herr Otto Speckter, the Hamburg artist, well known by his illustrations of 'Puss in Boots' two volumes of German fables, has illustrated the 'Quickborn,' by Klaus Groth,—an interesting collection of poems in the Low German dialect, as it is spoken in the district of Ditzmarschen. Herr Groth, when publishing the 'Quickborn' some years ago, was a village schoolmaster somewhere in Schleswig-Holstein. The rapid success of his genuine little book, however, enabled him to get rid of his ungenial occupation, and he is now on his way to Italy to recover his health, shaken (we hear) by hard study and the privations of his former years. The poet (for a poet Herr Groth is, and one of no mean order), has been compared by his countrymen with Burns, and a certain similarity (apart from peasant origin and writing in dialect) cannot be denied, though we think Burns by far the greater

man of the two. Burns is manlier and stronger than Groth. Besides, he is more original. He himself is one of those by whom the homely Muse of the Low German singer has been influenced to a considerable extent. The notes and metres of the Ayrshire man are to be met with on almost every page of the Ditzmarschen 'Quickborn.' The book presents us, moreover, with some translations from Burns, which betray the intimate acquaintance of the German with his Scotch model. These translations (of which 'Tam o' Shanter' is more an adaptation than a translation, shifting the scene of the poem from the banks of Doon to some wild common in Schleswig-Holstein) are very interesting also from a linguistic point of view. Altogether, the little book, with Herr Speckter's beautiful and characteristic embellishments, may be recommended as an exquisite poetical mirror of North German peasant life. Klaus Groth is at present a man of about thirty-six years of age.

EXHIBITION OF CRIMEAN PHOTOGRAPHS. 5 Pall Mall East.—EVERY EVENING EXHIBITION from 7 till 10, and from 10 till 11 daily. Admission, 1s.—In Foggy Weather the Gallery is brilliantly lighted with Gas.

NEW EXHIBITION OF CRIMEAN PHOTOGRAPHS, by ROBERTSON, of Constantinople. WILL OPEN ON TUESDAY, from Ten till Five daily, at Mr. KILBURN'S, Photographer to the Queen, 322, Regent Street.—Admission, 1s. (with Catalogue).

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.—"THE EVENTS OF THE WAR."—This Diorama depicts the successful Progress of the Allies, from the Departure from Varna to the Capture of the Malakoff and Destruction of Sebastopol. The Lecture by Mr. Stoecheler. Buoy, Three and Eight.—Admission, 1s., 2s. and 3s.; Children, Half-price.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC, HOLLAND, UP THE RHINE, AND PARIS, IS NOW OPEN EVERY EVENING (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock. Seats which can be taken for 1s. 6d. at the Box-Office every day before 7 o'clock, will incur extra charge, 2s. 6d. Area, 2s. —The Morning Representations take place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at Three o'clock.—EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—LAST FEW DAYS.—To-night, and every night during the week, MAGIC and MYSTERY, by Professor ANDERSON. Doors open each Evening at Half-past Seven; commence at Eight. Private Boxes, 1s. 11s. 6d. and 1s. 12s. 6d.; Stalls, 4s.; Dress Circle, 3s.; Upper Boxes, 1s. 12s. 6d.; Pit, 1s. 6d. The Box-office is open daily from 11 till 5, and a matinée Performance on Saturday, December 22, at Two o'clock. Doors open at half-past 1. Being the last Morning Performance.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Great Preparations are being made for the CHRISTMAS LECTURES AND ENTERTAINMENT at this well-known and favourite place of resort.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Dec. 10.—Admiral Beechey, President, in the chair.—J. Alger, A. Gillespie, D. M'Gregor, A. Cumming (Inspector General of Hospitals), and C. White, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.—The President informed the meeting that the Secretary had received a communication from M. Haidinger, of Vienna, announcing the proposed establishment of a Geographical Society in Austria.—Dr. Shaw read a letter from Mr. J. Kent, dated Sydney, August 12, 1855, giving information respecting the North Australian Expedition, which left Moreton Bay in August last in the Monarch barque and Tom Tough schooner, under the command of Mr. Gregory, accompanied by his brother and Messrs. Baines, Wilson, Müller, Elsey, Flood, and fourteen men, with fifty horses, 200 sheep, and provisions and stores for two years. Mr. Windsor Earl accompanied the Expedition as far as the mouth of the Victoria, in order to afford it any assistance in his power from his enlarged experience of South Australia. The Tom Tough had been engaged to wait in attendance upon the Expedition as long as required. Mr. Kent alludes to the departure from the original plan, in omitting to take bullocks and drays, which he holds to be very essential; but considers the party well selected, mentioning in particular the two Gregorys, Mr. Baines, and Mr. Wilson, as men well adapted, by their previous experience of travelling and capability of enduring fatigue, for such an undertaking. Mr. Kent likewise alluded to some sketches of North Australia, which had been sent to the Society by Mr. Baines, the artist to the Expedition.—Sir R. I. Murchison, in recurring to the interest the Society had taken in originating and promoting this Expedition, pointed out its proposed course from Moreton Bay by sea to the mouth of the Victoria river, on the north-west coast. It was intended to ascend that river to its source, and determine the bounda-

ries of the drainage towards the north coast to the interior. The Expedition, passing eastward, would probably skirt the northern limits of Sturt's Central Desert, and reach the head waters of the rivers flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria; from thence it was hoped that it would be in a condition to penetrate southwards to the great bend of the Barco river, which was the northernmost point reached by Sir Thomas Mitchell and Mr. Kennedy, on their journey from Sydney towards the Gulf of Carpentaria. These operations would greatly extend our knowledge of Northern Australia, and open up communication between it and the Southern colonies.—Dr. Shaw next read a communication from E. Gabriel Esq., Her Majesty's Arbitrator at Loanda, to the Earl of Clarendon, transmitted to the Society by Lord Wodehouse. A letter to the same effect, dated August 28th, had also been received through Consul Brand, announcing the receipt of a letter from Dr. Livingston, describing his further progress in the interior, after leaving Cassange. Dr. Livingston crossed the boundary of the province on the 18th of May last, intending to visit Matiamoe, the paramount chief of the Loanda country, and to ascertain if the River Casai be navigable there. After crossing the River Chikapé, and the River Maombe he arrived at Cabango, a large trading station on the River Chihomba, from whence Matiamoe is 100 miles E.N.E. At this place, Dr. Livingston's native companions expressed an anxious wish to turn south towards their homes on the Leeambye, and circumstances rendered it necessary to adopt that course. The Society may shortly expect further communications from this most scientific of African explorers.—A paper by Mr. Macqueen, 'On the Tropical Regions of Central South Africa,' was then read, illustrated by an original map constructed by Mr. Macqueen, in conformity with the routes of Dr. Livingston and the best Portuguese authorities.—Mr. Consul Parkes finally read a paper, 'On the Geography of Siam,' illustrated by a new map of the lower part of the Menam river, constructed by the American missionaries from their own original observations. The author had accompanied Sir John Bowring on his recent successful mission to the Court of Bangkok, and referring to the former labours of Crawfurd, and the more recent proceedings of Bishop Pallegoix, he acknowledged the kindness of Dr. House and the American Protestant missionaries who had allowed him to copy their map. He gave a lucid sketch of the importance of the country, and the advantages to be derived from the liberal treaty entered into with its present enlightened Sovereign.

GEOLoGICAL.—Nov. 21.—W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair.—J. G. Dawkins, Esq., was elected a Fellow.—The following communications were read:—"Notice of the Artesian Well through the Chalk at Kentish Town," by Mr. J. Prestwich, jun.—"On the Discovery, by Mr. Robert Simon, of Uppermost Silurian Rocks and Fossils with Observations on the Relations of those Strata to the overlying Palæozoic Rocks of that part of Lanarkshire," by Sir R. I. Murchison. The principal object of the author is to direct the attention of geologists to the recent discovery of the uppermost Silurian rocks of Scotland, in which country their presence was unknown. This important discovery was made by Mr. Robert Simon, of Lesmahago, who, in the western part of that extensive parish of Lanarkshire, detected very remarkable and large fossil crustaceans, the exhibition of which, at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, induced Sir R. I. Murchison to visit the tract in question, accompanied by Prof. Ramsay. The descending order of the strata is well seen on the banks of the Nethaw river, Logan water, and other small streams; all tributaries of the Clyde. There the lower carboniferous rocks, composed of several bands of Productus and Encrinite limestone, frequent seams of coal and layers of ironstone, including the celebrated "black band," are underlaid by the Old Red Sandstone, as largely exposed between Lanark and Lesmahago. Towards its lower part the Old Red is marked by a powerful band of pebbly conglomerate; whilst its base

is made up of alternating red and light greenish-grey flagstones and schists. The latter are succeeded by dark grey, slightly micaceous, flag-like schists, charged with large crustaceans and other fossils, which organic remains, combined with the apparently conformable infarposition of the beds to the lowest Old Red, having led the author unhesitatingly to consider the Lanarkshire strata to be the equivalents of the uppermost Ludlow rock, or the Tilestones of England. These dark grey fossiliferous layers are underlaid by, and pass down into, a thick accumulation of similar mudstones, which becoming in some parts slightly calcareous, in others arenaceous, rise up into a district of round-backed moorland hills, ranging in height from 1,600 to 2,000 feet above the sea; the whole tract having been much penetrated by porphyries and other igneous rocks. The uppermost Silurian rock of Lanarkshire contains a species of *Pterygotus* not to be distinguished from the species of that crustacean so abundantly found in the upper Ludlow rock of Shropshire and Herefordshire; like which the Scotch stratum holds the *Lingula cornuta* and *Trochus helcites*? (Sil. Syst.) The Lesmahago deposit is further characterized by the crustaceans of the group of *Eurypteridae* (Burmeister), which are described by Mr. Salter under the name of *Himantopterus*. They are accompanied by another crustacean, the *Ceratiocaris*. In conclusion, Sir Roderick pointed out the remarkable persistency of this zone of large crustaceans in various parts of the world; one of the Lanarkshire individuals has a length of about three feet! In Westmoreland (Kendal) the *Eurypterus* is found in the Tilestones, with many upper Ludlow fossils; in Podolia the stratum containing the *Eurypterus tetragonophthalmus* (Fischer) underlies Devonian rocks; and in the Russian Baltic island of Oesel, it has recently been detected by M. Eichwald in a limestone which had been referred by the author and his associates to the Ludlow rock. In North America the *Eurypterus* occupies the same geological horizon as in Russia and the British Isles; and it is to be remembered that large crustaceans of this group of *Eurypteridae* have nowhere been found in rocks of older date than the Upper Silurian.—'Description of the Crustaceans from the Uppermost Silurian Rocks near Lesmahago,' by Mr. J. W. Salter.—A note by Mr. Huxley, 'On the Relations of these Gigantic extinct Crustacea,' showed that their zoological position was neither among the Phyllopods nor the Pociliopods, nor intermediate between the Copepods and Isopods, as had been supposed, but that their structural peculiarities were to be paralleled only among the Cumoid Stomopods on the one hand, and the zoöform larva of the Macrura on the other. Drawings of a new genus of Cumoid crustacea, *Calypoceros*, illustrated this position; and leaving out of consideration the Isopoda, Pociliopoda, and Trilobita, it was shown that the *Eurypteridae* exhibited the most rudimentary and larval forms of any known Crustacea.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Dec. 6.—J. Hunter, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. John Maclean, Mr. G. P. Joyce, the Rev. Canon Stanley, Mr. W. Jones, and Mr. Herbert Barnard, were elected Fellows.—Mr. Morgan exhibited three ancient clocks of very beautiful workmanship,—one of them in the form of a crucifix, surmounted by a globe surrounded by a belt, on which the hours are marked.—The Secretary exhibited a book containing acquaintances for secret service monies paid by the Government of England from the year 1695 to 1701. This volume, besides other signatures, contains those of Titus Oates and Matthew Prior.—Mr. Morgan then read an account of excavations at Caerwent during the past summer. Two ranges of buildings were laid open, in one of which a very complete tessellated pavement was discovered; in the other a very perfect suite of Roman Baths, with the apartments for dressing, anointing, &c.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Dec. 9.—Octavius Morgan, Esq., M.P., V.P., in the chair.—The proceedings commenced with an explanation from

the chairman of the recent excavations of a Roman villa and baths at Caerwent. They had been carried on under the auspices of Mr. Morgan and the Caerleon Antiquarian Association. Mr. Akerman, the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, personally superintended the operations. The subject was rendered more clear by the display of an accurate model of the baths. In their arrangement Mr. Morgan recognized distinctly the various apartments in use among the ancients. The Apodyterium, or dressing-room, the Tepidarium, Caldarium, Frigidarium, and Sudatorium. The actual furnace was at one side, and it appears from other instances also that the water in the bath was always maintained at an equal temperature, a system, therefore, superior to our own in the present day. That the baths were not used in mediæval times is apparent from the discovery of Roman female ornaments, bracelets and chains upon the floor. A hone-stone was found there also. A beautiful mosaic pavement in rich colours adorned the adjacent villa, and another extensive surface of ornamental pavement lay in an opposite direction.—Mr. J. Yates made a few remarks which elicited still further proofs of the practical skill of the ancients in the conduct of heat through their buildings.—Mr. J. M. Kemble read an elaborate paper 'On the Mortuary Customs of the Scandinavians.' He cited various examples of the custom of burning, and the sacrifice of persons and property with the deceased chief. The hero in *Walhalla* was supposed to be honoured in proportion to the wealth he brought with him. Heroes were burnt in their chariots, placed on a bier. The corpse of the chief perished in his ship, which was set on fire, and then with swelling sail set adrift on the waters, a type of that mystery which attends the departure from this life. Sometimes the ship containing the corpse was buried in the sand. In other cases the ship surmounted the funeral pile. The custom of burial in hollowed-out trunks of trees at Oberlach, and in North Germany, seems to bear analogy to this departure of the chief in ship or chariot.—Mr. O. Morgan exhibited three silver gilt clocks, one of the beginning of the seventeenth century in the form of a Griffin holding a shield bearing an hour-dial. The minutes-dial lay flat upon the square pedestal. The eyes of white and red stones were constantly moving. At the quarters chiming the mouth opened. At the hour striking the broad silver wings flapped. The second clock was French, in the form of a hexagonal temple, with figures, dated 1540. The third (in the form of a tall cross with ball at top, round which moved horizontally a band numbered for the hours), came with the last-mentioned from the Bernal Collection.—Mr. W. Burgess read some observations 'On the Mitre of Phillippe de Dreux, Bishop of Sens,' accompanied with elaborate drawings.—Mr. A. Nesbitt explained some beautiful casts which he had taken from ivory carvings. Among them he pointed out several that he had made from the originals at Goodrich Court by the kind liberality of Col. Meyrick.—Casts from ancient carved chessmen, from Berlin, were exhibited by Mr. T. Woodward, and a model of Sawston Manor in its original state by Mr. Octavius Morgan.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Dec. 11.—Dr. Gray in the chair.—Mr. Slater read a paper containing characters of two new species of Tanagers, *Dubius auricrispa*, and *Tridornis porphyrocephala*. Since compiling his List of Bogota Birds in which Mr. Slater had included the first-mentioned species under the name *D. cyanocephala*, he had examined D'Orbigny's types of that bird in the Paris Museum, and found them so different from the present as to lead him to conclude that they were specifically distinct. This bird is common in collections from Bogota. The examples of *D. cyanocephala* in the British Museum were procured by Mr. Bridges in Bolivia. Mr. Slater in 1854 first noticed a specimen of the second species *Tridornis porphyrocephala* in the Museum at Berlin under the name *Tanagra analis* (Tschudi), but having, just previously, had the opportunity of examining type specimens of the latter in the collections of Brussels and Bremen, he saw at once that the present was a distinct, although closely allied, species. He, there-

fore, now introduced it as new to science under the title of *Tridornis porphyrocephala*.—The Secretary read a paper by Mr. P. P. Carpenter, containing 'Descriptions of (supposed) New Species and Varieties of Shells from the Californian and West Mexican Coasts, principally in the Collection of Hugh Cuming, Esq.'—Mr. E. W. H. Holdsworth read a paper containing 'Descriptions of two new Species of *Actinia* from the South Coast of Devon,' which he characterized under the names of *Actinia pallida* and *Actinia ornata*. They were found on the rocks near the entrance to Dartmouth Harbour, a part of our western coast which, from its steep rugged character and luxuriant growth of sea-weeds, presents a fruitful hunting-ground for those in search of marine productions.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Dec. 3.—J. Curtis, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. E. Shepherd exhibited the male and female of *Trochilium Scoliciformis*, a species new to this country, taken in July last by Mr. Ashworth, near Liangollen, North Wales.—Mr. S. Stevens exhibited some Lepidoptera recently sent from Natal by Mr. Plant, accompanied with drawings of their larva, and read some notes by Mr. Plant, on the Paussidae of that country.—The President exhibited a drawing of a beautiful variety of *Vanessa Urtica*, taken several years since near Hampstead; also of a singular larva, resembling that of *Deilephila elerio*, but apparently differing from any known species, found near Barham, in Suffolk, and which unfortunately died in the pupa state.—Some notes were read by the President on the genus *Conops*; and by Mr. Newman on *Endromis versicolor*.—Papers by Mr. Newman were read by the Secretary, 'On the Functions of the Antennæ of Insects,' 'On a new species of East Indian Thrips, received from Major Hamilton,' and 'On some species of Australian Microlepidoptera.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 11.—J. Simpson, Esq., President, in the chair.—The discussion on Mr. Evan Hutton's paper, 'On the Vertical Structure of the Primary Rocks, and the General Character of their Gold-bearing varieties,' was continued throughout the entire evening.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Dec. 12.—C. W. Hoskyns, Esq., in the chair.—'On the Progress and Results of the Under-Drainage of Land in Great Britain,' by Mr. J. B. Denton.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Statistical, 8.—'On the Nature and Extent of the Benefits conferred by Hospitals on the Working Classes and the Poor,' by Mr. Guy.
British Archæol. 8.—

TUES. Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' by Prof. Partridge.
Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Annual Meeting.
Linnean, 8.

WED. Society of Arts, 8.—'The Present Position of the Iron Industry of Great Britain with reference to that of other Countries,' by Mr. Blackwell.
Geological, 8.—'On some of the Geological Features of the Country between the South Downs and the Sea,' by Mr. Martin.
On the Remains of the Musk Ox (*Bubalus moschatus*) from the Gravel near Maidenhead, Berks, by Prof. Owen.

THURS. Antiquaries, 8.—

Royal, 8.—

FRI. Philological, 8.—

Society of Arts, 8.—Special.—Renewed Discussion on Mr. Denton's Paper 'On the Under-Drainage of Land in Great Britain.'

FINE ARTS

The Bayeux Tapestry Elucidated. By the Rev. John Collingwood Bruce, LL.D. J. R. Smith. It is something to have the whole of the Bayeux Tapestry in a volume that may easily be carried—if not held open—in one hand. But better still would have been a continuous series in one length; for the breaks caused by fitting the strips into the plates are annoyances, and not always well regulated. This, in Dr. Bruce's volume, arises from a too literal imitation of the plates published by the Society of Antiquaries. The admirable engravings of Mr. Charles Stothard in that series were on so large a scale as possibly to render it necessary to fill the space to the utmost, but in this miniature reproduction the defects might have been obviated. Thus, in two of the most important points of the history, 'The Oath of Harold' and 'His Death,' the groups are entirely broken, and even the legend is spoilt by separation. This

defect in one of the legends is the more unfortunate as Dr. Bruce omits it altogether in his text. It stands in the plate *UBI HAROLD : SACRAMENTUM : FECIT : WILLELMO DUCI*: In all other cases Dr. Bruce repeats the Latin legend, followed by a translation in his text. The English version would have been still more acceptable, had it been applied beneath the roll itself, serving both to explain the Latin and fill the wide blank margins. The plates, executed in various colours, are faithful but coarse transcripts of Stothard. The variegated horses can only be matched in Etruscan paintings and Owen Jones's version of the Parthenon Frieze at Sydenham; but altogether, if not minute, Dr. Bruce's illustrations are careful, and may be relied on as far as they go. The fac-simile of a portion of the original Tapestry, executed for Dibdin's book, is preferable to Stothard's, and might have been advantageously introduced in the volume before us.

The Bayeux Tapestry itself lay disregarded till 1724. After the publication by Montfaucon it became universally popular, and no ancient monument has since that period been so frequently reproduced.

Napoleon, who transported the chair of Dagobert to Boulogne, had the Tapestry conveyed from Bayeux to Paris, where it was shown to inflame the minds of the people for the invasion of England. Dibdin preserves a sketch of the apparatus by which it was exhibited in 1814 to Mr. Gurney. It was coiled round a roller set in a frame with a winch, like a rope which lets the bucket down into a well. The name of the *Toile de St. Jean* was given to it because it was exhibited to the people on St. John's Day. On that festival it was hung round the nave of the Cathedral of Bayeux. At the present time it is preserved under glass in the public library at Bayeux. Dr. Bruce gives the following particulars.—

"The Tapestry has originally formed one piece, and measures two hundred and twenty-seven feet in length, by twenty two inches in breadth. The groundwork of it is a strip of rather fine linen cloth, which, through age, has assumed the tinge of brown holland. The stitches consist of lines of coloured worsted laid side by side, and bound down at intervals with cross-fastenings; as is seen in the frontispiece, which represents a portion of the Tapestry of the original size. The parts intended to represent flesh (the face, hands, or naked legs of the men) are left untouched by the needle. Considering the age of the Tapestry, it is in a remarkably perfect state. The first portion of it is somewhat injured, and the last five yards of it are very much defaced. The colour chiefly used by the fair artists are—dark and light blue, red, pink, yellow, buff, and dark and light green. On examining this interesting relic, I was struck with nothing so much as the freshness of the colours; and can entirely subscribe to the words of Mr. Hudson Gurney, in the *Archæologia*, 'the colours are as bright and distinct, and the letters of the superscriptions as legible, as of yesterday.'

The fables of *Æsop* afterwards described by him as ornamenting the lower border are more than doubtful.

The statistic return afforded by a note is sufficiently curious.—

"It contains 623 men, 202 horses, 55 dogs, 505 animals of various kinds not already enumerated, 37 buildings, 41 ships and boats, and 49 trees—in all 1,512 figures."

But Dr. Bruce omits to tell us that among the 1,512 figures only three are females. Upon the numerous shields that occur in this Tapestry we find no indications of the lion fess or chevron; the devices are confined to dragons, spots and crosses. The text is an elaborate and lengthened commentary upon the needle-work, combining much archaeological information upon costume and architecture with the historical narrative of the contemporary chronicler, William Wace. Although fearing the touch of the needle, which he fancies Miss Strickland would handle as readily as a pen, our author throws out a few strong doubts upon several assertions that she has made in the history of Matilda of Flanders. Her ready adoption of Turbold the Dwarf as the designer "is at least" of the Tapestry requires some inquiry. Authority than a Norman tradition, with Thierry's "History of the Anglo-Normans" for reference.

As a specimen of the style of Dr. Bruce's description of the Tapestry, we subjoin the following:—

"We next meet with the funeral of the King. The circumstance which chiefly strikes us in it is its simplicity. No gilded cross is borne before the body. No candles, lighted or unlighted, are carried in procession. The atten-

dants, clerical and lay, wear their ordinary dresses. Two youths go by the side of the bier, ringing bells. That the persons who follow the bearers are ecclesiastics is evident from their shaven crowns. Two of them have books, from which they chant some requiem. Only one of them has a mantle, betokening him to be a person of importance. The body, agreeably to the Saxon custom, has been wound up in a cloth, fastened with transverse bandages. It is carried head-foremost. At a date not long subsequent to the Conquest it was usual to carry the bodies of princes to the grave fully exposed to view, dressed in all the habiliments of state. The body, on arriving at the place of sepulture, would be deposited in the stone coffin that was prepared to receive it. The legend here is, *HIC PORTAT CORPUS RADWARDI REGIS AD ECCLESIAM SANCTI PETRI APOSTOLI*—Here the body of King Edward is carried to the church of St. Peter the Apostle. On proceeding to the next compartment we are surprised at being introduced into the chamber of the dying King, whose remains we have already seen conducted to the grave. Some writers think that here the artist has been guilty of an oversight, or that the fair ladies who carried out his design have been very inattentive to their instructions. The seeming inconsistency is very easily explained. A new subject is now entered upon, and that subject is the right of succession. One important element in it is the grant of the King. The historian of the Tapestry, in discussing this very important part of his design, found it necessary to revert to the scenes which preceded the death of the Confessor, and to the directions which in his last moments he had given. The narrative which Wace gives us of the last hours of the King agrees well with the Tapestry."

Then follows a long quotation from the historian, but—

"Let us now revert to the Tapestry. The feeble condition of the King is well represented. An attendant is supporting him behind with a pillow, whilst he makes an attempt to speak. The blackness of death has settled upon his shrunken countenance. A priest dressed in canonicals stands by, whose uplifted hand and sorrow-stricken face seem to say that the grand climax is at hand. A lady at the foot of the bed weeps; she is doubtless the wife of the Confessor, the sister of Harold. Harold is eagerly pressing his claim. The legend here is, *HIC RADWARDUS REX IN LECTO ALLOQUITUS FIDELIBUS*—Here King Edward on his bed addresses his faithful attendants. Underneath is a scene, which the inscription explains, *ET HIC DEFUNCTUS EST*—And here he is dead. A priest in canonicals is again present, probably the one we saw above, and two attendants wrap up the body for burial. The compartment before us is the only one in the Tapestry in which two scenes are given in one breadth."

The book will doubtless afford great pleasure to young and old. The quaint and seemingly time-worn colouring of the bands of Tapestry may win over some to consider their own history more deeply, and others to study for the first time the actual pages of our older chroniclers.

With the inside of the book our praise must end. The outside is very bad. The "half-bound morocco," which consists in a very narrow red back, handsome so far on the shelves, is connected with a smooth, glazed, paper side, covered with the gaudiest colours and gilding, displaying patterns, which, after due consideration, we found had been suggested by a beautiful border on one of the pages in the celebrated Benedictional of Ethelwulf. Here we have the inside of a book turned to the outside. Time indeed it is that our book-covers should obtain some consideration; that the principle of *protecting* the inside be first thought of, instead of studying, as in railway advertisements, what shall first catch the eye on a drawing-room table. A Library Book Dr. Bruce's assuredly is, but in studying the drawing-room table, he must beware also of the work-basket.

Fortunately for us, Queen Matilda chose the humblest materials for the perpetuation of her history. Her worsted stichery has endured almost eight centuries. Had she selected gold and silver for her threads, the record must have shared the fate of the choicest works of Art. Phidias was wise when he desired to execute his *chef-d'œuvre* in stone rather than ivory and gold. The bronze statues of Lysippus have all been melted down, and even the Raphael Tapestries of the Vatican and the Armada series of the House of Lords were reduced in number by the Jews for the sake of the precious material that composed them.

The Bayeux Tapestry has been, and will long continue to be, regarded as an historical document of the greatest importance. It addresses the eye in an almost childish manner, but with such clear and significant action that much of the inscription on it could have been spared. Actual names alone were necessary. Montezuma would have read such intelligence without interpreters, and we can hardly leave the subject without observing the wonderful similarity of *narration* that appears between these and the Marbles recently brought from Nineveh. Not only the same battle incidents,

homage to royalty, and evident haste in executing a commission,—but the varied size of the figures according to rank, the shape of the trees, some radiating in buds with fanciful stems, and the marking of the waves, minuteness of architecture combined with an utter defiance of perspective, all tend to show that Art has always had its experiments and conventionalities.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Look on that Picture and on this. Hogarth.

Mr. Hunt taking physic and Mr. Hunt solacing himself with a roast fowl and pale ale are pleasant sights for print-buyers' eyes. If any one thinks there is a little want of self-respect in an artist's painting himself in a ludicrous and humorous position, we can only say there is present so much self-respect in most people that the occasional absence of it is rather bracing and refreshing. If Mr. Hunt had painted himself standing on his head, or swallowing yards of ribbon, or at the latter end of a mayor's dinner, or in any other humiliating position, we might see some justice in the objection; as it is, we rejoice in the multitudinous wrinkles, the convulsed mouth, the ghastly grin, the averted eyes of the over-fed,—and equally in the genial smile, the droll grimace, and the air of festive enjoyment with which the human biped prepares to feed upon his dead fellow-creature. There is much quaint humour in the photograph, and we commend it to all lovers of portfolios.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—Her Majesty has commissioned Mr. E. M. Ward, R.A., to paint a cartoon (the exact size of which is not yet fixed) representing the installation of the Emperor Napoleon as a Knight of the Order of the Garter. The scene is, of course, at Windsor Castle, and the picture will include portraits of the Queen, the Empress, the Princess Royal, Viscountess Canning, and other ladies of the Court, besides those of the Emperor, Prince Albert, and the several Knights and officers of the Order.

We see with regret an announcement that the Landseer Collection, which has lately been on view at the Winter Exhibition in Pall Mall, is about to be distributed by the hammer of an auctioneer. Surely such a Collection, rich as it is in productions of the master—productions showing the various stages of the engraver's and etcher's art,—with skies hinted, skies removed, skies repeated,—and with the thousand nameless graces of experimental touch and retouch which make up, so to speak, the history of one of the most remarkable series of works produced in our day,—ought to have found its way into the British Museum! The rulers of that institution, we infer, think otherwise. Mr. Lewis, we believe, offered the Collection to the British Museum at an enormous price,—a price which they might very well hesitate to give:—but we do not understand on what grounds they can have refused, as is whispered about, to secure the Collection at cost price. Is it now too late?

At the General Meeting of the Royal Academy, held on Monday, the following Academicians were elected as President and Council for the ensuing year:—*President*, Sir Charles Lock Eastlake; *Council*, E. M. Ward, S. Cousins, C. W. Cope, W. Dyce, P. Mac Dowell, F. R. Lee, J. R. Herbert, Esq., and Sir R. Westmacott; *Auditors*, Sir R. Westmacott, W. Mulready, Esq., and Sir C. Barry.

On Monday last the Gold and Silver Medals were distributed to the Royal Academy students for the successful drawings and pictures of the year. The following were the awards:—Gold Medals, to Mr. J. Powell, for the best Historical Painting,—and to Mr. J. Adams, for an Historical Group in Sculpture. Silver Medals, to Mr. J. W. Johns, for the best Painting from the Living Draped Model,—to Mr. P. R. Morris, for the best Drawing from the Life,—to Mr. J. Waite, for the next best Drawing from the Life,—to Mr. S. J. Carter, for the best Drawing from the Antique,—to Mr. G. A. Freezer, for the next best Drawing from the Antique,—to Mr. H. Bursill, for the best Model

from the Antique,—to Mr. S. Lynn, for the next best Model from the Antique,—to Mr. G. J. Miller, for the next best Model from the Antique,—to Mr. T. Sich, for a Perspective Drawing,—to Mr. A. H. Parken, for a Specimen of Scioigraphy,—and to Mr. J. S. Wyon, for a Medal Die.

The first meeting of the Graphic Society was held on Wednesday last in the Library and Flaxman Hall of University College. The display of drawings was not numerous. The principal features were some excellent water-colour sketches in Egypt, by Mr. Dillon, jun.,—a series of minute studies in oil-colour from Venice and Egypt, by Mr. W. H. Burnett, teeming with pre-Raphaelite minuteness and precision,—a valuable series of studies of ornamental art, both in architecture and sculpture, gleaned in Florence and Siena, by Mr. Waring, since the opening of the Crystal Palace,—portfolios of sketches by Messrs. Lewis and Lance,—photographs by Mr. Lake Price,—and various smaller sketches, which serve to mark the wanderings of various artists during the recess. A large drawing, by Turner, of Cader Idris (sunset) attracted much notice.

The great painting of Sebastiano del Piombo (one of the most precious works in the National Gallery) has been moved to the east side of the room, and now stands in a far better light. It was never before seen to such advantage in this country. Without cleaning or tampering, by change of place solely this magnificent work becomes more impressive than ever.

The news of the week mentions a proposition intended to be made to Government next session for the occupation of the site of the National Gallery, Barracks, and Workhouse, by a monster Hotel, on the principle of the Hôtel du Louvre at Paris.—King Charles's statue is again hidden from the public gaze at Charing Cross. The present occasion is to afford protection whilst the monument is being raised *en masse*. No doubt the additional elevation will restore some of the importance it has lost since the National Gallery and Nelson Column have come to form the background of the view from Charing Cross.

The Architectural Exhibition, which promises to show an advance this year, opens on the 19th. Lectures on Tuesday evenings are announced by J. Ferguson, Esq., G. Scharf, jun., Esq., the Rev. J. L. Petit, R. W. Billings, Esq., T. Allom, Esq., &c.—The architects are very sensibly imitating the artists, and forming classes for design. At the next meeting of the Architectural Association, the subject for sketching is a bridge 200 feet span from bank to bank.—Some members of the Architects' Institute have commenced an agitation, with a view to compel architects to undergo examination and gain a diploma of fitness.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—FRIDAY NEXT, December 21, the usual Christmas Performance of Handel's *MESSIAH*.—Vocalists: Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolby, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Allom, and others. 700 Performers.—Tickets, 3s., 2s., and 10s. 6d. Subscribers now entering receive Double Tickets for this performance.

Mr. Macfarren's Book of Words and Analysis of the 'Messiah,' or Creation, 8d. each, one sent on receipt of 7 postage stamps. Office, No. 6, in Exeter Hall.

Miss DOLBY begs to announce that her second and last SOIRÉE MUSICALE will take place at her residence, 3, Hind Street, Manchester Square, on THURSDAY, the 20th inst., to commence at half-past Eight o'clock precisely, when she will be assisted by Mr. Tennyson, Miss Addis, Mr. Allom, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Lindau, Miss Sartor, Platti, and George Russell.—Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, to be obtained of Messrs. Kramer & Co., 201, Regent Street; Messrs. Addison & Co., 210, Regent Street; and of Miss Dolby, at her residence.

MUSIC HALL, STORE STREET.—Signor LANZA, in company of the author of his Vocal Entertainment, entitled 'The WELSH GIRL'S STRATAGEM'; or, 'Songs of Many Nations' (in which his talented and inimitable pupil, Miss E. L. WILLIAMS, the celebrated Welsh Nightingale, will appear), begs to announce that the Second of a Series will take place at the above Hall, December 18.—Signor LANZA and Miss Williams intend giving an Entertainment in aid of the Nightingale Fund, due date of which will shortly appear.

M. JULLIEN'S GRAND ANNUAL BAL MASQUE.—Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden.—The Grand Entertainment will take place on MONDAY NEXT, December 17.—Tickets for the Ball, 10s. 6d. Tickets for the Ball, the Private Boxes, and the Second Floor, at Messrs. Old, Bond Street; Mr. Hammond's, and Mr. Hockham's, Old Bond Street; Mr. Prowse's, Chapside; and at Messrs. Julian & Co., 214, Regent Street. Reserved Seats in the Dress Circle and Amphitheatre, Private Boxes, and Tickets for the Ball, at the Box-office of the Theatre, corner of Hart Street and Bow Street.

St. MARTIN'S HALL.—Handel's *MESSIAH* will be performed on WEDNESDAY, December 19, under the Direction of Mr. JOHN HULLAH. Principal Vocalists: Madame Clara Novello, Miss Julia Bladen, Miss Palmer, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Thomas.—Tickets, 1s. and 2s. 6d.; Stalls, 5s.; may be had of the Musicians, and at St. Martin's Hall. Commence at half-past 7.

MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT'S CONCERTS.—When some account was offered of the Whitsuntide Musical Festival at Düsseldorf [*ante*, pp. 651, 680], a remark or two were also offered on the peculiar position taken up by Madame Goldschmidt, in respect to Art, to which it may be as well to refer. That hers is a brilliancy which exhausts, rather than enriches, the domain to which she belongs by profession, is self-evident. It is a repetition of the career of Catalani, with some variations. The uniform splendour of voice exhibited by Catalani is not possessed by the Swedish Lady,—but then Madame Goldschmidt is twice the musician that her predecessor was; and her voice has one material for effect, which is unique in our experience among *soprani* singers,—we mean the superior flexibility, force, and command over verbal articulation in its uppermost register. The two *prime donne* charmed (and charm) the public by qualities totally apart from natural gifts or musical accomplishments,—by a certain enthusiasm of style, which, let it be spontaneous or let it be studied, is resistless. To neither of the two the conditions of association seemed (or seem) possible. Madame Catalani was of small use to *Opera*, because she would be the *Opera*;—Madame Goldschmidt appears to avoid all festivals where she cannot be the *Festival*.—There is a good side to such personality, but there is a less good side to it. The public, however, cares little for the nicest adjustment of the balance. Therefore,—though some such notice as the above is an inevitable sympathy to any account of Madame Goldschmidt's concerts offered by those who will not put Art beneath the feet of any artist, whatever be her name, whatever her accomplishments,—it is needless to work out the argument further, or more circumstantially to enumerate facts and details, the bearing and significance of which must, nevertheless, never be lost sight of.—The *soprano* music in 'The Creation' is one of Madame Goldschmidt's parts of predilection; and it is hard to imagine the jubilant portions of the work more magnificently sung than they are by her. Her obvious determination always to do her utmost, and the force which she possesses in the upper octave of her voice, leave certain numbers of 'The Creation' without the hope of a better, more earnest, more inspired interpreter than she. Now, too, her voice is at its best, and (as we said in reference to the Düsseldorf Festival) possesses greater lustre and vigour in its upper tones than formerly. In the two descriptive songs—'With verdure clad,' and 'On mighty pens,'—her volume of tone and strenuousness of manner are in the way of our perfect satisfaction. We remember the more delicate, sweeter, and not less finished delivery of Madame Stockhausen and Madame Sontag; and while we recognize the skill and conscience of their successor, we miss something of ease, something of elegance,—we are fatigued rather than enchanted; we are astonished, where a gentler ministration to Beauty would have been more welcome.—The *soprano* part in Handel's 'Israel' would suit Madame Goldschmidt admirably,—since it lies in the best part of her voice. Thanksgiving and triumph seem to be the elements of the Swedish Lady's expressive power;—as a gentle and graceful singer, she has been surpassed. Her delivery of the English text leaves nothing to wish, and everything to be imitated by ninety-nine out of the hundred English singers. Strange, that in dignity and distinctness our countrymen and country-women should allow themselves to be so far outstripped by foreigners! Madame Goldschmidt was cordially welcomed and warmly applauded by a public that filled the Hall. The orchestra and chorus, conducted by Mr. Benedict, were sufficient: the gentlemen engaged to sing the *tenor* and *bass* solos seemed to feel themselves merely in the accessory position of train-bearers to the Princess of the evening,—and though careful and correct, avoided any attempt at prominence or equal proportion when their duty called them out in concert with the *soprano*.

MARYLEBONE.—This theatre was crowded on Tuesday evening, to witness the production of a drama by Mrs. Edward Thomas, entitled 'The Merchant's Daughter of Toulon.' The serious parts of this play are distinguished by poetic diction and occasional verse; but the interest is, nevertheless, of the drawing-room kind, and the main action is relieved by an unusual amount of comedy. There are two or three slight underplots, which occupy considerable time, and excite continued mirth. The scenes save one are all interiors—fashionable apartments in the residences of *M. Bellamont*, a retired merchant, and in those of his friends. He and his daughter *Hortensia* are new arrivals at Toulon; and the beauty and merits of the latter, who has been educated in a convent, excite the envy of the *belles* of the city, whose swains are likely to prove faithless and offer their devotion to the young and interesting stranger. An old friend of her father, *M. Dugard* (Mr. Lyon), turns the current of affairs. A lover of her dead mother, he sees in *Hortensia* the image of his early love; and, being of a morose disposition, though with a reputation for piety, he conceives some malicious plans for diverting the attention of the Lady from her various suitors to himself. *Francisco*, his nephew (Mr. Gaston), especially falls under his hatred, and he turns him out of doors, in order to insure *Hortensia*'s love to himself. At length, he resorts to the desperate measure of slandering the Lady's character, that she may be glad to accept refuge under the cover of his name as her husband. This portion of the argument forms the theme of the fourth act, and had a powerful effect on the house. The curtain fell to great applause, and Miss Edith Hernud, who sustained the heroine, was recalled before the curtain. In the fifth act, in consequence of the heroine's earnest appeal to his better nature, Dugard repents. We cannot enter into the comic situations, further than to say that, through the arts of Dugard, two military gentlemen are induced to shave off their moustaches and beards, an incident which was treated with considerable skill, and excited uproarious laughter. The play having proved successful, the authoress was called for, and had to bow several times from her private box. This play differs from the later specimens of its class in the number and importance of its comic scenes. In fact, the serious plot is rather spotty than developed, until the fourth act, when the extraordinary situations there introduced decided the fortune of the new drama.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—It is curious from time to time to look into those new worlds where, let the civilization be ever so rude, the wealth of the inhabitants is already so great and tradition so potent as to enable and to excite them to appropriate pleasures which were long esteemed exclusively the appanage and ornament of old societies. While reading the Colonial and American papers, it is impossible to avoid speculating upon the new indigenous products which may result from the wanderings of Music and Drama, in, what may in some sort be called, "the wilderness."—Fancy, for instance, the Australian generation receiving its first musical associations from the performances of Miss Catharine Hayes, who finds it more lucrative to remain playing in lame translations of Italian opera for the Melbourne public than to assist in supplying the want of competent *soprani* at home. Yet lame and musically dislocated must these performances be,—since we find it announced in Australian papers that as, in support of Miss Hayes, "we are fearfully deficient in good tenors, the principal rôle of that description of voice will be given to Madame Carandini, who is a vocalist of considerable abilities, and a great favourite on the colonial boards." The number of the *Melbourne Argus*, from which the above is copied, notices performances of the "Philharmonic Society," in which it appears that resident vocalists, and not "stars," sing good music by Handel and Mendelssohn.—There is always a chance, too, of second-class professors, thrust out of the home-area by the eagerness of competition, finding a profitable employment, and exercising a salutary influence in remote

places. Thus, we have been told that America is sown with German *Kapellmeisters* and piano-forte teachers of the second class. Counting the presence of such residents at its fullest value, and allowing for the further facilities for education offered by modern intercourse, we cannot but fancy that a diffusion of Music is going on, like to which the world has seen nothing heretofore,—that the flower-seed (to employ a metaphor) is scattered about under circumstances which, after a while, will give the plant the plenteousness of a weed,—and in which some degeneracy arising from imperfect culture may be expected. It may be dreamed, too, without fancy becoming frenzy, that though new Art cannot for a while be looked for in the districts thus planted, new varieties of materials for Art may thus be generated, which shall have the grace of novelty.

At a time like the present, when no new singer of any promise or performance should be overlooked,—and when the fullest honours court everyone that is willing really to study and perfect himself,—we are justified in naming Mr. and Mrs. Tennant—the gentleman a *tenorino*, the Lady a *mezzo-soprano*, among our rising vocalists.

Among the entertainments of the winter may be mentioned the Lectures on Music, with illustrations, which have been given, by Mr. Ella, at the London Institution.

Herr Nabich, the trombone-player from Weimar, has arrived in London, with the intention, we believe, of passing the musical season in England.

"Demonstrations" are in no country more the fashion than in Belgium. Some of the most characteristic among these are connected with Music. We perceive that a medal has just been struck at Brussels in honour of the ducal composer of "Santa Chiara," and, in the records of a public ovation which was the other day offered to M. Ley, the excellent painter, at Antwerp, we read that Music was capitally represented by a concert, in which the violin-playing of M. Leonard and the singing of Madame Leonard, made a distinguished figure. How long are we English, who love music so sincerely, and who spend so much in its culture, and in trying to enjoy it, to remain so "undemonstrative" as we are? To suggest one answer to our question—there is, as we have again and again pointed out, a form of gracious hospitality which might be exercised without retrenchment, without extravagance, by our City Companies, which would greatly redound to their own popularity, and the good of Art. With their splendid halls, and their princely revenues, why should not each of them give its one concert as well as its many dinners?

France has lost one of its sweet, natural, and thoroughly French singers, by the recent death of Frédéric Bérat, the *chansonnier*. His place is in the musical rather than the literary cenotaph of the year, because his claim to distinction rests on having written words for music, and the music to his own words. His *chansons*, "Ma Normandie," and "A la Frontière," will keep their place among the "Mélodies with words" of his country. His "La Listette de Béranger" gave to Mlle. Dejazet the opportunity of presenting one of those capital personations in which she stood alone,—and the song and the Lady's acting of it called from M. Béranger a pretty compliment, since M. Guinot, in the notice prefixed to the Collected Edition of Bérat's *chansons*, tells us that the genial master-singer, in sending Bérat a new edition of his songs, wrote in the fly-leaf—

L'ombre de Lisette m'a dit,
Offre à Bérat cet exemplaire;
Grâce à lui, chacun m'applaudit;
Grâce à lui, je sais toujours plaisir.

Regarding them in a musical point of view, there is still (no scandal against Mr. Oxenford) a book to be made concerning the French singing of the French *chansonniers*, among whom Bérat was one of the most pleasant.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—W. B.—A. B.—G. B. W.—J. R. W. H. M'C.—J. W. L.—L. S.—J. D. G.—received.

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